

Episode #1025 Ephesians 4 Part 2-The Sevenfold Unity

I. In Ephesians 1-3, the Holy Spirit revealed to us all the glorious things that are true of us “in Christ.” Now, in Ephesians 4-6, we are told of the “worthy walk” that we should live in love and gratitude to God for the glorious position we have received.

II. The first way to live is by guarding the unity of the Spirit. The unity the Spirit gives today comes from believing the truth. This is something we keep, not create, and it doesn’t matter if others join us or not. First is the one body, the same reality of Christ of which we all partake.

III. Unity #2: One Spirit. This is the Holy Spirit of God. There is no other Spirit for the true believer.

IV. Unity #3: One hope.

A. Hope is expectation. This is our future in God’s plan.

B. The one expectation is of God’s coming kingdom on earth. He holds out no other expectation to mankind.

C. The expectation of our position is that we will represent God as sons in the kingdom.

V. Verse 5. Unity #4: One Lord. There are many lords (I Cor. 8:5,) but for us, there is only One, the Lord Jehovah, in the New Testament Jesus Christ.

VI. Unity #5: One faith.

A. Many believe that faith is just deciding God should do something, and then stirring yourself up to believe it. Like the “little engine that could,” we must grit our teeth and say, “I know it’s true! I know it’s true!” But this is not Biblical faith.

B. Some claim we do not have much faith today. Matthew 17:20. Yet it takes a great deal of faith to believe without seeing, as we do! John 20:29.

C. Faith is to believe God’s words. Romans 10:17. No other belief, no matter how strong, is faith in God’s sight.

VII. Unity #6: One baptism.

A. Baptism originally meant “to dip.” Then, it was taken up by the dyeing industry, and it came to mean “to dye.” From here, it came to mean what happens between the cloth and the dye: an identification that results in a merger and establishes a relationship.

B. There are multiple baptisms in Scripture: water, fire, spirit, death, etc.

C. For the believer today, there is only one that matters: to be identified with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:12. This happens when we believe and are placed “in Christ.”

VIII. Verse 6. Unity #7: One God and Father of all. This is the avowal of believers through all time. We cannot own any other God but Him. He is truly over all, through all, and in all.

IX. Conclusion: This unity is not about people from different denominations sitting down in the same church service together, but about us as individuals being unified with the Spirit by believing these things. We guard this unity if we believe these things, even if we are the only ones we know to believe them. We are unified with others who believe these truths, and most importantly, with God, Whose truths these are.

X. Second Conclusion: The last three chapters of Ephesians tell us how we should live in light of the glorious truths of the first three chapters. The first way to live is by guarding the unity of the Spirit. The unity the Spirit gives today comes from believing the truth regarding these seven transcendent truths. This unity is something we keep, not create, and it doesn’t matter if others join us or not. Let us all strive to walk worthy, and keep the unity of the Spirit!