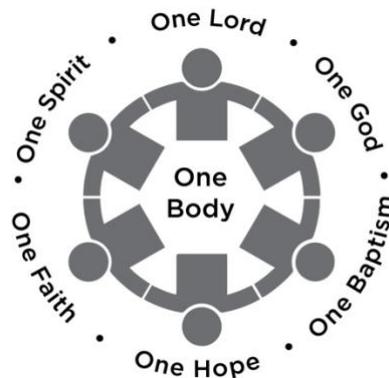


Unity of the Spirit

Ephesians 4:1-6

Jerry Tu



Background

In the fractured and polarized world of the last three years, one would think that the church ought to be a stabilizing and unifying force for society. However, we've seen that the church itself was just as divided and polarized as the rest of society, if not more so. We know that disunity is not God's plan for His family; He desires His children to live in harmony in the bond of love. One of the strongest exhortations for unity in the church comes from Ephesians chapter 4, a familiar passage from which PBCC derives several of our core family values. In a short two sermon series, we'll retrace the lessons Apostle Paul taught to the believers in Ephesus and learn how God intends for the church to live in unity and to function as a living body.

Sermon Texts: Eph 4:1-6 (ESV)

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you the most?

2. Sunday questions

- a. Unity is a difficult concept to understand, but extremely important within a church setting. Jerry said it does not mean uniformity, but does mean relationality. When you think of unity, how do you understand it? How would you define it?
- b. Of the 7-fold oneness (verses 4-6), which “one” makes the most sense? Which “one” do you still have questions about?
- c. Would you say that you are “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit”? If so, provide examples of how you have pursued unity in the past. What can you do practically moving forward to show you are eager to maintain unity?
- d. A specific aspect of pursuing unity is pursuing peace. Would you say you are a peacemaker (Matt 5:9)? Why or why not?
- e. Jerry quoted a Romans passage which alludes to maintaining unity through non-essentials (Rom 14:17).
 - How do you determine what are essentials and non-essentials of our faith?
 - Share practically how one maintains unity through a non-essential activity. For example, how one participates in baptism is a non-essential. How would you maintain unity when discussing this activity with another believer who thinks differently than you?