

"SEVEN THINGS THAT UNITE THE CHURCH"

Eph. 4:1

Therefore -- connects Paul saying conduct.

God's calling involves a unity of life.

I call you - along to walk worthily - when a man enters a fellowship he takes the obligation to live a certain kind of life. If he fails, he hinders the aims of the fellowship.

Five basic words of the Christian -- v2'3

1. Humility - lowliness - great heartness.
2. Meekness - gentleness - whole life under the direct control of God. This is humility in action.
3. Long-suffering - patience - bears insult and injury.
4. Quality of love - seeks highest good for others.
5. Bond of peace - one sacrifice brought our peace.

V. 1 - I besech you that you walk worthy of your vocation. You carry yourself wherever you go. Christian conduct cannot be legislated. The idea is guard, with zeal. Unity in the Christian fellowship.

V. 3 - Paul states there is also a plan for unity in the church.

Dr. B. H. Carroll sees these from a doctrine viewpoint. From doctrines come morals.

A Christian creed of doctrines gives greater power and wider usefulness.

Paul says the church is wrapped up in (seven) things. This is the truth and revelation of God.

There are those who believe in an ecumenical church. That is good, the problem lies in the compromise required to be a part of that universal church. To join that movement is to reject or deny some truths and doctrines of the Bible.

This has been something the political world has tried to enforce. Antiochus Ephiphanes king, Syrian empire, tried to have one religion a common worship of pagan gods. Jews in Judea were forced to call on the name of Jupiter and do sacrifice to the Greek Gods.

But there is a true ecumenical movement that is set forth in the Holy Word.

#### I. ONE BODY - V. 4

The church - applying to the redeemed. Christ is the head of the church - the body.

Oneness is essential for the work of Christ. Often the word church in the New Testament is used in a local sense. Other times plural, churches.

But also a sense in a universal sense - as we use words. The State - school - court - family - home - one says "The church".

Heb. 12:23 refers - "The General Assembly and church of the firstborn, which are

written in Heaven."

There is a universal church in the family of God.

The author of the church is God.

The leader of the church is Jesus.

The power of the church is Holy Spirit.

The rule and standard of the church is the Holy Bible. It is the universal church of Jesus Christ.

Where ever you find a born again believer you find a community of love, fellowship, and devotion.

The unity is not man made -- it is God made.

Baptist church building in Munich destroyed in war. They rebuilt it in 1950 and when they observe the Lord's Supper on Sunday at the close they join hands and sing - Blest Be The Tie That Binds.

We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear;  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.

One could feel the quickening, living spirit in the unity of the church -- body of Christ.

## II. ONE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit (energizing) the one body! Word for (breath) is used here, ordinary breath. Unless there is breath in the body the body is dead!

Operation of the one Spirit keeps the body alive.

There can be no church without the Spirit.

Without His presence we are dead, a corpse. Ezekiel in the valley of dry bones was commanded to speak to the wind, the breath, the Spirit of God. When he did, those corpses stood up and lived.

When we are together in the Spirit, we are all of one accord.

When people are scattered like a covey of quail, there is a thousand wills among us.

Listen to leadership of the one Spirit and He gives one mind - the mind of God.

## III. ONE HOPE

We are called toward the same goal - this is the secret of unity.

Hebrews 6:18-19 "Who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us; which hope we have an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil."

There is Heaven beyond the veil.

"Whither the four-runner is for us entered, even Jesus, made a high priest forever after the order of Melchisedec." V. 20 - Our hope is in Jesus and he is beyond the veil. He is there interceding for us, meditating for us. He is our great advocate. He assures us of our inheritance incorruptible undefiled, that shall never pass away. He is there to see to it that we make glory, that we finally arrive in Heaven.

He is beyond the veil - He is our hope.

Book of Titus Paul refers to that blessed hope as being the appearing of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Some day he is coming personally, bodily in Glory, that is the end of the world when all wrongs are righted.

The day when the earth shall be filled with knowledge and righteousness as the waters cover the sea. *Rus 11:15*

That shall be the day when the dead shall be resurrected, and all of us shall be changed.

We shall meet God face to face when our hope comes to pass and our Lord comes without the veil.

Note -- you are called in one hope of your calling. The Christian does not have a thousand hopes, he has only one. The unsaved have multiplied hopes which are never fulfilled.

The Christian has one hope to the inheritance to which he is called!  
Heavenly home, promised land.

IV. ONE LORD - V. 5.

This puts a limit - this is nearest thing we have of a creed - "Jesus Christ is Lord." Phil. 2:11.

Purchased us with his blood. He rules, reigns over the church and one day we shall see him again. He is exalted,

Phil. 2:9-10. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth."

There will be no unbowed knee in that day.

Rev. 5:1-3 - And I saw in the right hand of him that sat upon the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in Heaven nor in earth (not even angel, apostle, or prophet) nor under the earth was able to open the book, neither to look thereon."

John writes, "And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders said unto me, weep not; behold, the lion of the Tribe of Juda, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the

book, and to loose the seals thereof. And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne -- stood a lamb as it had been slain . . . and they sung a new song. Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof . . . worthy in the Lamb . . . blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him. V. 4-13. That is the exaltation of God.

There is one Lord, our blessed Jesus. He is in the church. He is our Master. Our captain. Our teacher - there is none else.

Roman Empire persecuted Christians. When they conquered a land - the religion of that land was conquered.

They built a building called Pan-the-on - dedicated to all the gods. Beautiful structure.

When they conquered a kingdom they accepted their gods and put images of them around in the Pantheon.

There is one to Jupiter, Juno, Artemis, Venus, Neptune, etc.

Why did Rome persecute Christians if this was true?

Answer is simple - here is Jupiter - here is a place for Jesus and the Christians said no. There is no way our Jesus can be named in one breath along with Jupiter, Juno, and other gods.

There is one Lord, His name is Christ Jesus.

So they put the Christians to death.

It is like a book on comparative religions - Buddhism, Confucianism, Mohammed.  
Take your pick - one god is as good as another.

Not so! There is one Lord separate, apart, Caesar is not Lord.

#### V. ONE FAITH

Refers to the individuals trust in and surrender to Jesus Christ.

Means all Christians are bound together in one common act of love in Jesus.

It is not one man's idea of God or of religion.

Africa - smallpox wiped out entire section. One might see a broom in the yard or on the top of a roof. That means they are driving out the demon of smallpox. They do it by putting a broom in the yard and on the roof.

That is one idea of smallpox.

But Pasteur had another idea and said it was caused by bacteria and was a disease. One needs to be vaccinated.

One man's idea of the disease and cure is not as good as another.



The Bible - Revelation of Almighty God - this is the way I have mapped out for you - by faith I find the answer.

## VI. ONE BAPTISM

One baptism not two! One gateway into the church - not three things. Sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.

Baptism of our Lord in the (river Jordan) settles the whole meaning and fixes the particular meaning.

John the Baptist did not have three ways of baptizing.

It is a burial and a resurrection. We are buried with Christ and are dead to sin. We are raised with the Lord in the likeness of his own glorious life.

Jews had many washings and ablutions. As washing the feet, bathed the hands. Even ceremonially washed their pots and pans.

First time a man took another man and washed him was when John did it. So the ordinance, they called him (John-The-Baptizer.)

John got the pattern from God, who told him to do it. (John 1:14-28).

In the spirit, in baptism, we are taken out of the world and placed in the body

of our Lord.

Holy Spirit takes out our sins and puts us in the living body of Christ.

Symbolizes a glorious spiritual resurrection.

VII. ONE GOD AND FATHER - V. 6

That one declaration dethrones all the idols of this world.

Glorious list of spiritual unities crowned and climaxed -- one God.

One body - spirit - hope - Lord - faith - baptism.

Dr. O. T. Binkley - Professor and President of Southeastern. Told a story about his little girl hearing him preach the first time. She was asked if she remembered anything about the sermon, replied yes, "You preached about overalls."  
V. 6 - was his text.

Note the all's in that verse.

There is one God and Father - not ten gods or innumerable gods, not even two gods.

Monotheism alone.

True God is revealed in the person of Jesus - Jesus the Lord.

To give your heart to Jesus is to give your heart to God. To do the will of Jesus is to do God's will.

Put your life in the fellowship of his church and join the company of God's people.

Beverly Hillsbillies - T.V. Series -

Story of Clampett Family lived in Absolute Poverty -  
Oil discovered on property - wealthy overnight.

Family encouraged Fed Clampett Move Calif.  
Bought Big Mansion -  
Hired Banker care to finances.

Strange Thing - Maintained Customs of Hills - same clothes - food -

Lived like Paupers .

Some people do that today - A man in Christ is New, Old Things passed -  
Church rich - 7 Things bind us - NO Need live like Paupers .