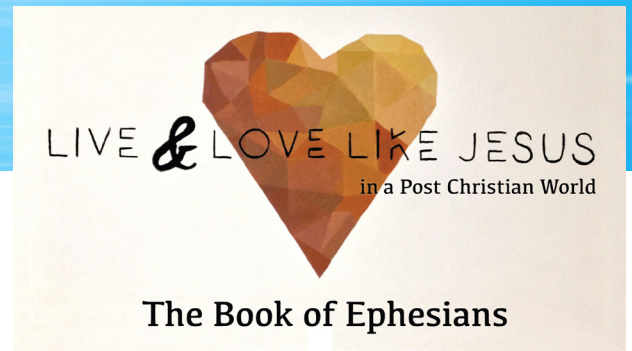


Discussion Questions

January 15, 2023

Ephesians 4:3-5 Walking With a Zeal for Unity



1. Read Ephesians 4:1-6

Summarize in your own words Paul's exhortation of unity in the body of Christ.

2. Now read Colossians 3:12-15

What is similar between these two passages?

In Ephesians 4:3 Paul describes the "bond of peace," how are bond and peace explained in the Colossians passage?

3. Discuss how well you feel the body of Christ today has prioritized this message of Paul and why.

4. What does it look like for Christians to live out this unity Paul describes today?

What aspect of living out this kind of unity is most difficult or challenging?

5. What area are you most challenged personally in regards to being zealous to maintain the unity of Christ in the body?



Ephesians 4:1-6 (ESV)

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

William Temple - Former Archbishop of Anglican Church 1942

I believe in the Holy Catholic Church, and sincerely regret that it does not at present exist.

Ephesians 2:16

Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

Ephesians 4:12-13 (ESV)

Equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

One Body

One Spirit

One Hope

One Lord

One Faith

One Baptism

One God & Father

Dr. Klyne Snodgrass - NIV Application Commentary

Christians value differences more than unity or people. We are more fearful of some ecumenical world structure, than of fragmenting the body of Christ. The emphases in this foundation for unity should determine the interests and shape of our theology. We should focus on the gospel and on what God has accomplished in Christ and place less stock in our ability to define the truth, for we all see through a glass darkly (1 Cor. 13:12). Humility is required first in doing theology.

For too long we have allowed lower order items to cause division. We cherish eschatological timetables and the nuances of systems and lose the focus on God's redeeming his people.

Theological clarity and precision are necessary, but when our explanations become the cause of division, we have not rightly understood our salvation.

John 17:21-23

I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one - as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

Colossians 3:12-15

*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And **above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*