

# **Pursuing the Unity of the Church: Part I**

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

**October 28, 2007**

# Three Things...

1. *The Basis for Unity,*
2. *The Passion for Unity,*
3. *The Power for Unity.*

# The Basis for Unity:

1. The unity of the church is the unity of the spirit—“Be eager to maintain the unity *of the spirit...*” (v. 3)
2. What makes the unity of the church possible is the peace Christ purchased on the cross—“Be eager to maintain the unity of the spirit *in the bond of peace.*” (v. 3)

# The Basis of Unity:

*For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (Eph 2:14-16).*

# The Basis of Unity:

3. Our pursuit of unity is a small part of a massive movement of God to unite all things in Christ.

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth (Eph. 1:7-10).*

# The Basis of Unity:

4. Our pursuit of unity is based on the fact that, as Christians, we have all things in common (vv. 4-6).
5. Our pursuit of unity is based on the value God places on every Christian person.

# The Passion for Unity:

- “[Be] *eager* to maintain the spirit of unity in the bond of peace.”
- “Eager” means to do our best, to make every effort, to try our hardest, to have passion for something.

# The Passion for Unity:

- Where does our passion for the unity of the church come from?
  - *It comes from seeing a vision of what God has done and is doing in Christ.*
  - *It comes from contemplating these things and valuing these things.*
  - *It comes from being overwhelmed by the glory and beauty of the purposes of God in Christ.*
  - *It comes from having a passion to be about our Father's business.*

# The Passion for Unity:

*“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all” (Romans 12:18).*

# The Power for Unity:

How do we receive and maintain the ability to keep pursuing unity, especially when it gets difficult?

*The power to pursue the unity of the church comes from learning to rely, not on ourselves, but on God who raises the dead!*

# The Power for Unity:

*“For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.*

*Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead” (2 Cor. 1:8-9)*

# The Power for Unity:

1. Remember to meditate often on the goodness and power and purposes of the Lord.
2. Pray and pray and then pray some more!
3. Correctly identify your enemy.
4. Spend most of your energy working on yourself.
5. Never give up!