

Series: Ephesians
Title: One
Text: Ephesians 4: 4-7
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Ephesians 4: 1: I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2: With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3: Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4: 4: *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5: One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6: One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

I. FIRST, OUR TEXT SAYS IN VERSE 4: “THERE IS ONE BODY”

Believers are members of Christ’s body. The Lord Jesus has a physical body like as we do. But here it speaks of Christ’s church,

Ephesians 1: 22: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23: which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Again, in chapter 4, we see Christ gives his ministers:

Ephesians 4: 12: For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:... 15: But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

We saw a few weeks ago:

1 Corinthians 12: 27: Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Whether, speaking of the body of Christ as the general assembly and church of the first-born which are written in heaven or whether speaking of those a gospel church here below we are still "one body." Whether the child of God be called out from among the Jews or from Gentiles—we are members of the same body. All the true children of God are all one in Christ Jesus who is the Head of the body. Therefore, we endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We are not to bite and devour one another. We are one family. We are all brethren—brothers and sisters in Christ.

II. SECONDLY, IT IS THE THREE PERSONS OF THE GODHEAD WHO GIVES US OUR UNITY—V4: one Spirit,... V5: one Lord.. V6: One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

One God the Holy Spirit

Not one of God’s children was born the first time with this unity. We each were born dead in sins—we did what the wicked do as soon as they be born; we were estranged from the womb, we went astray as soon as we were born speaking lies. (Ps 58: 3) God the Holy Spirit made the difference, not we ourselves.

Ephesians 2: 1 : And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the

children of wrath, even as others. 4: But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5: Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

God the Holy Spirit is the one, by whom, each member of Christ's body are born-again and called into the unity of Christ's body. When Nicodemus came to the Lord Jesus, though men had made him a master teacher in Israel, Nicodemus was obviously dead in trespasses and in sins because when he began speaking of spiritual things:

John 3: 3: Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4: Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5: Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6: That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7: Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Application: So so-much for this talk of the sinner exercising his free will. We have no will for divine things until we are made willing in the day that God exercises his divine will and power within us.

Psalm 110:3: Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power...

All grace and every gift which a believer has is given to us freely by this one Holy Spirit of God. It is by the Holy Spirit that we are taught the gospel which can only be known by spiritual discernment.

1 Corinthians 2:12: Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

We believed only because God gave us the gift of faith through the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 2: 8: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Faith is one of those good works, God before ordained that each of his elect shall walk in. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) Repentance is another gift given by the Holy Spirit.

By this one Holy Spirit we behold Christ and we truly begin to pray for him to have mercy on us and save us by his grace.

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

By this one Spirit we have access to God the Father through Christ the Son.

Ephesians 2:18: For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

All who are born of the Holy Spirit are no longer in the flesh but in the Spirit.

Romans 8: 7: Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8: So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9: But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10: And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. 11: But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up

Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 12: Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13: For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14: For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

God never takes the Holy Spirit from the believer. Our covenant Head has breathed life into us and he will not take away eternal life once he has given it-

Ephesians 2: 13: In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14: Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Application: Brethren, the Holy Spirit makes us united, bound together in the bond of peace and love in Christ, eternally joined together in the body of Christ. This is why we “endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” All conduct contrary to this unity “grieves” the Spirit of God. So we are urged to have one mind, one heart, having the same affections for one another.

One Lord Jesus Christ

This union is also Ephesians 4: 5: by one Lord—the GodMan, Christ Jesus, the only begotten Son of God. He is called our “one Lord” because to every believer there is but “one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.” (1 Cor. 8:6.) We are what we are—by him—our one Lord. And we are under the dominion of our blessed Lord Jesus. He commands effectual in our hearts saying,

Matthew 11: 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Application: Now, brethren, because each believer in this one body have taken his yoke upon us there is unity. We each seek to do his will. So our will is one: the will of our one Lord. He made himself one with us and has made us one with him

Hebrews 2:11: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22: And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

So our mutual desire is to endeavor to keep this unity in the bond of peace which he has wrought for us and in our hearts. He bought each of his redeemed with his own precious blood then he fitly joined us together in his one body. He is using us to preach his gospel till all his elect are joined to this body, “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” (Eph 4: 13)

Application: So we have one common charge, one common work while we remain in this earth—to set forth the beauties and victories of our one Lord. So our one desire is to hear and declare his successful, effectual redemption of his people by his precious blood. Christ Jesus and the gospel of Christ is the unity of every true believer in the body of Christ.

One God and Father

Also, we have this union because we have Ephesians 4: 6: One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

He is our one God and our one Father. This makes us members of one family, sons and daughters. We have the same family name, the same family ties, the same family interests because we have the same family origin.

God our Father is sovereign—Ephesians 4: 6: who is above all,

Illustration: Looking into a starry night sky

Isaiah 40: 12: Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? 13: Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or *being* his counsellor hath taught him? 14: With whom took he counsel, and *who* instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding? 15: Behold, the nations *are* as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. 16: And Lebanon *is* not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. 17: All nations before him *are* as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity. 18: To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? 19: The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains. 20: He that *is* so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree *that* will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, *that* shall not be moved. 21: Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22: *It is* he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: 23: That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.

Our God and Father is absolutely sovereign over all. Can he not do with his own what he will?

Isaiah 55: 7: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9: For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world; he willed to save us and none can stop him from performing his will.

Application: I feel so sorry for those in places where the preacher will not preach the absolute sovereignty of God: the sovereign electing, predestinating, calling and glorifying grace of God. What comfort could they possibly have? What unity? It is why they are always biting and devouring one another, whipping and binding with rules and regulations. Throw away your rules and regulations and preach the one God and Father before whom Da 4:35: all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? Preach HIM and he will work grace in the heart so that he does the constraining rather than foolish men and there will be peace.

And God our Father is Ephesians 4: 6: and through all. It means God our Father is taking care of all.

Romans 8: 28: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. 29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30: Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31: What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? 32: He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

And God our Father is Ephesians 4: 6:...and in you all.

Ephesians 2:22: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Application: Brethren, if ever any of you differ in opinion just remember it is just that, opinion. Only the word of God our Father is true and stands forever. We are one by the three persons of the Godhead. This union is not a mere agreement of a denomination, not consent to man-made creed; not even the bond of a visible church, it is the spiritual union of the triune God. Its nature is like its origin: eternal. When every earthly tie is broken, this union will remain. Endeavor to keep this unity but know that nothing shall ever endanger this unity of our God in the bond of peace.

III. LASTLY, HERE IS ANOTHER THING THAT FITLY JOINS US TOGETHER—Ephesians 4: 4: ye are called in one hope of your calling; V5: one faith, one baptism,

One Hope

We are all called and given one hope by this calling—the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is "The hope of Israel" (Jer. 14:8), "let Israel hope in the Lord" (Psal. 130:7)

Be sure to get this: If our hope was in our works we would all have different hopes. If our hope was in our so-called righteousnesses our hopes would all vary according to what good we thought we had done. If it was for rewards in glory—then all our hopes would vary by degrees.

Our hope is the one hope of our calling—one justifying righteousness by one glorious Redeemer who shall present us all faultless to one Father where we shall each receive one inheritance—everlasting life with God our Savior forever.

One Faith

Likewise, we are bound by one faith--"Like precious faith through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:" (2 Pet 1: 1) This one faith has one "author and finisher" Jesus Christ. This one faith has one end--"Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." (1 Pet.1:9.)

Someone might say, "What about all the other "faiths.?" There is no other faith but this one faith which is the gift of God and rests in Christ Jesus our Righteousness who redeemed his particular people from our sins. False religions are of fallen sinners. Cain is the father of false religion. They all have one thing in common—salvation by man's will and works. The faith God gives is the only faith that has ever existed which trusts solely in the merits of another—God our Savior. "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

One Baptism

Likewise, there is but ONE BAPTISM—the Greek word is "baptismah"—it is not translated. The one baptism spoken of here is water baptism.

Baptism does not save us. But baptism is very important. In the days of the early church, Gentiles did not care if folks worshipped Christ—they worshipped many gods. But if you were baptized that meant you renounced all other religions and gods as utterly false. So it is when we are baptized in our day.

This one baptism is administered one way: immersion in water: symbolizing our death, burial and resurrection with Christ, on one subject: believers in Christ, in one name: the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost and if administered this one way, on this one subject, in this one name then it is to be done one time. There is no such thing as being re-baptized. If you did not believe on Christ the first time you went through so-called baptism then

you were not really baptized. It is not that you need to be re-baptized but that you need to be baptized for the first time and last time.

Something to Remember

But this is important to remember, Ephesians 4: 7: But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Believers differ widely in gifts and have very different measures of grace yet remember this;

1 Corinthians 12:4: Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5: And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6: And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7: But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Application: So the remainder of this epistle is the Holy Spirit's application to us through the apostle Paul: I encourage you to go home and read it today before you let these things slip away. I'll will read Ephesians 4: 17—down through Eph 5.

Ephesians 4: 17: This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But ye have not so learned Christ; 21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. 5: 1: Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Now, believer, you read the rest of Ephesians and endeavor to keep this unity by doing these things and do so knowing this unity can never be broken.

Amen!