

# The Unity of the Spirit

Eph. 4:1-6

## Introduction:

- A. Division and dissension are a disgrace to the cause of Christ.
  - 1. Families cannot worship together.
  - 2. Neighbors cannot worship together.
- B. Division and dissension are displeasing to God (John 17:20-23; Eph. 2:16; 1 Cor. 1:10).
- C. Unity is possible if two conditions of our text are met:

## Discussion:

### **I. A Sincere Desire for Unity.**

- A. Want it enough to be patient with imperfections of brethren (v. 1-3)
  - 1. Without ignoring or condoning sin (Jas. 5:19-20).
  - 2. Without leaving sin undisciplined (1 Cor. 5).
  - 3. Without appeasing chronic grouches (cf. Matt. 11:18,19).
- B. Want it enough to place unity above purely personal considerations.
  - 1. Personal speculations (2 Tim. 2:23).
  - 2. Personal “rights” (Rom. 14:19-20).
  - 3. Personal disagreements (cf. Acts 15:36-41).
- C. Want it enough deal firmly with division causers (Tit. 1:10; Rom. 16:17, 18)

### **II. A Solid Basis for Unity.**

- A. Not unity based on desire alone — ecumenicalism.
- B. Not peace before purity (Jas. 3:17)
- C. But, unity “of the spirit” (cf. Eph. 2:17,18, 22)
  - 1. Based on Spirit’s revelation (Eph. 3:5-6).
  - 2. Based upon the “ones” revealed by the Spirit (vv. 4-6).
- D. Jesus did not come to bring unconditional peace (Luke 12:51-53).
- E. Jesus did pray for unity based upon God’s word (John 17:17-21)

## Conclusion:

- A. Unity in Christ requires effort — “endeavoring.”
- B. Unity in Christ requires truth.
- C. Unity in Christ begins by being baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 12:13)