

Maintain the Unity of the Spirit

Ephesians 4:1-6

September 27, 2020

Therefore: 4:1

From the theological to the ethical

In light of the truth of God's good news, walk in a worthy manner of that good news

Paul's emphasis on relationship

(rather than doctrinal purity, missional zeal, personal righteousness)

Spotlight on "IN"

Because we have been loved by grace, we are to love one another with grace

The new command of Jesus: John 13:34,35

The imitation of Christ

The only way to see what real love actually looks like in human skin

Humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love: 4:2

Maintain the unity of the Spirit: 4:3

We are not called to "create" the unity

Maintain: don't walk out, don't sabotage from within

A music is given: what notes will you sing?

My observation: theological flexibility, political rigidity

The divided church in a divided country

What holds more sway: our political philosophy or our common faith in Jesus?

Disdain - Animosity - Separation - Enemy

We are afflicted by a pervasive defensiveness rooted in insecurity

Are we not all holly?

The Church's potential of being a safe zone where the aisle could be crossed

It begins with a willingness trust motive and assume competence

Returning to the answer of knowing we are filled up in the love of Christ: 3:19

Reaffirming Our Oneness: 4:4-6

An early Pauline creed

Three triads in honor of the Trinity who is One

Spirit (with body and hope)

Lord (with faith and baptism)

God and Father (over, through, and in)

Impossible to take down the "temple building" that is the one body of Christ: 3:20-22

But it is possible to camp outside the temple building

"Coming inside" by speaking together the Nicene Creed