

ENDEAVORING  
TO KEEP THE  
UNITY OF THE  
SPIRIT

# Ephesians 4:1-6

- The unity of the Spirit – not created by us, but what is revealed is to be kept by us
- The keeping of the unity of the Spirit not just about believing that there are seven ONES
  - Must also believe and practice the truth of that one
  - How can you separate the truth of there being one from the truths about the one?
- One Spirit revealed not only ONE but the truth of the ONE

# Endeavoring to Keep

- Right attitude, yes, but also...
- “Endeavoring”
  - Vine: “hasten to do a thing, to exert oneself, endeavor, give diligence”
  - Same word used here also:
    - Galatians 2:10 – eager
    - 2 Timothy 2:15 – study (KJV); be diligent
    - Hebrews 4:11 – labor
    - NIV: “making every effort”
- Involves: Diligent effort, exertion, work

# Endeavoring to Keep

- 1 Timothy 1:3-4 – Reject some things
- 1 Timothy 4:6, 13, 16 – Instruct, give attention to, continue in
- 1 Timothy 6:3-5 – Withdraw yourself
- 1 Timothy 6:20 – Guard
- 2 Timothy 1:13-14 – Hold fast sound words; keep
- 2 Timothy 2:2 – Teach faithful men the same so they may teach others the same
- 2 Timothy 2:14-18 – Give diligence to rightly divide the word of truth

# Endeavoring to Keep

- 2 Timothy 3:10 – Carefully follow
- 2 Timothy 3:14 – Continue in
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – Profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness
- 2 Timothy 4:2 – Preach the word, convince, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching
  - “sound doctrine”

# Endeavoring to Keep Involves...

Teach no other doctrine

Guard

...which you have carefully followed

If anyone teaches otherwise...

...the doctrine which is according to godliness

Instruct...in these things

Nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine

Continue in them

...and does not consent to wholesome words...

All scripture inspired of God...profitable for...

Give attention to doctrine

Hold fast the sound words

You have carefully followed my doctrine...

Take heed...to the doctrine

...commit these to faithful men...

...be diligent...rightly dividing the word of truth

Continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of...

Preach the word...time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine

Shun profane and vain babblings

# Endeavor to Keep the Unity of the Spirit

One Body

One Spirit

One Hope

One Lord

One Faith

One Baptism

One God & Father

These teachings and practices help keep the unity of the Spirit regarding the ONE Body:

What the Spirit revealed about:

- The name of the one body
  - Romans 16:16
  - Corinthian
  - The work of the one body
  - The worship of the one body
- Col 1:8

*These unite because they are revealed by the one Spirit*

These teachings and practices depart from, detract from, diminish and deconstruct the Bible truth of, and thus destroy the unity of the Spirit regarding the One Body:

- Denominationalism
  - John 17:17-20
  - Ephesians
- Councils
- Conferences & praise teams appealing to emotion

*These create division because they oppose what was revealed by the Spirit*

# Endeavor to Keep the Unity of the Spirit

✓ One Body

☐ One Spirit

☐ One Hope

☐ One Lord

☐ One Faith

☐ One Baptism

☐ One God & Father

These teachings and practices help keep the unity of the Spirit regarding the ONE Spirit:

What the Spirit revealed about

- Himself - Deity
- Guide the apostles to the truth
- "We are united by the Spirit through the word"
  - 1 Corinthians 2:13

*These unite because they are revealed by the one Spirit*

These teachings and practices depart from, detract from, diminish and deconstruct the Bible truth of, and thus destroy the unity of the Spirit regarding the ONE Spirit:

- The Spirit is a force
- Miraculous gifts to all
  - 1 Cor 12:7
- "We are united by the Spirit"
  - "We are united by the Spirit" (1 Cor 12:13)

*These create division because they oppose what was revealed by the Spirit*



# Endeavor to Keep the Unity of the Spirit

✓ One Body

✓ One Spirit

One Hope

One Lord

One Faith

One Baptism

One God & Father

These teachings and practices help keep the unity of the Spirit regarding the ONE Hope:

What the Spirit reveals

- Hope of glory
- Correction
- 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

*These unite because they are revealed by the one Spirit*

These teachings and practices depart from, detract from, diminish and deconstruct the Bible truth of, and thus destroy the unity of the Spirit regarding the ONE Hope:

- Gospel of health and wealth
- Hebrews 10:26-31
- Preaching against Christ on the cross
- Hebrews 9:28
- 1 Corinthians 15:24

*These create division because they oppose what was revealed by the Spirit*

# Endeavor to Keep the Unity of the Spirit

✓ One Body

✓ One Spirit

✓ One Hope

One Lord

One Faith

One Baptism

One God & Father

These teachings and practices help keep the unity of the Spirit regarding the ONE Lord:

What the Spirit reveals

- Jesus Christ
- Colossians 3:17; John 8:58
- Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus
  - Colossians 3:17; Matthew 28:18

*These unite because they are revealed by the one Spirit*

These teachings and practices depart from, detract from, diminish and deconstruct the Bible truth of, and thus destroy the unity of the Spirit regarding the ONE Lord:

- Jesus a created being
- "follow the command, example, necessary inference"
- Acts 15
- Philippians 4:9

*These create division because they oppose what was revealed by the Spirit*

# Endeavor to Keep the Unity of the Spirit

✓ One Body

✓ One Spirit

✓ One Hope

✓ One Lord

**One Faith**

One Baptism

One God & Father

These teachings and practices help keep the unity of the Spirit regarding the ONE Faith:

What the Spirit revealed:

- Final and once-for-all-time delivered
- ...
- ...
- ...
- Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:20; 1 Corinthians 14:37

*These unite because they are revealed by the one Spirit*

These teachings and practices depart from, detract from, diminish and deconstruct the Bible truth of, and thus destroy the unity of the Spirit regarding the ONE Faith:

- Continuing revelation
- Creed books & statements of faith
- ...
- ...
- ... approach:
  - Unity in gospel; diversity in doctrine"
    - Romans 1:15, 6:17

*These create division because they oppose what was revealed by the Spirit*

# Endeavor to Keep the Unity of the Spirit

✓ One Body

✓ One Spirit

✓ One Hope

✓ One Lord

✓ One Faith

**One Baptism**

One God & Father

These teachings and practices help keep the unity of the Spirit regarding the ONE Baptism:

What the Spirit revealed:

- In water

- Acts

Acts 8:38; John 3:23;

Romans 6:3-4

- For remission of sins

- Acts 2:38

*These unite because they are revealed by the one Spirit*

These teachings and practices depart from, detract from, diminish and deconstruct the Bible truth of, and thus destroy the unity of the Spirit regarding the ONE Baptism:

- Continuance of Holy Spirit baptism

- Acts 1:5

...bearing

...ward sign of inward grace"

- Galatians 3:26-27

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# Endeavor to Keep the Unity of the Spirit

- ✓ One Body
- ✓ One Spirit
- ✓ One Hope
- ✓ One Lord
- ✓ One Faith
- ✓ One Baptism
- ☐ One God & Father

These teachings and practices help keep the unity of the Spirit regarding ONE God & Father:

What the Spirit revealed:

- One!
- Deity
- Psalm 90:2
- Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
  - Ephesians 1:3

*These unite because they are revealed by the one Spirit*

These teachings and practices depart from, detract from, diminish and deconstruct the Bible truth of, and thus destroy the unity of the Spirit regarding the ONE God & Father:

- "As man is, God once was" (John 1:14)  
is, man may be like God (John 1:14)  
Jan. 1988, p.430 - p.431)
- Humanism

*These create division because they oppose what was revealed by the Spirit*

- If we are going to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, we will be instructed and nourished in the words of faith revealed by the Spirit, we will study them, we will continue in them ourselves, we will hold fast to them, we will guard them, and we will preach and teach them.
- Likewise, we will expose teachings and practices that depart from the Spirit's revelation about the 7 ONES, and we will avoid them.

- Teaching and practicing what the Spirit revealed in the Bible about the 7 ONES will unite.
- Teaching and practicing things outside what the Spirit revealed in the Bible will create division.
- Some may call that “unity in diversity”, but it is nothing more than union, and it is not unity.

Therefore, weigh every teaching against the  
Spirit’s revelation

