



TEXT:

Ephesians 4:3: Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:13: 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:

Context:

John 17:11: And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine Own Name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as We are.

John 17:21:-22:

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:

Introduction:

Do you recall the old saying: “United We Stand – Divided We Fall? We surely ought to put that true saying more into practice. Our precious Saviour’s fervent prayer was for this unity in the Body of Christ.

QUESTION: Can the people of this world look at us and see that we are one? Or, do they see strife, dissension and divisions?

ANSWER: Many will point an accusing finger at Northern Ireland where Protestants and Catholics were at logger-heads with one another and actually at war with each other.

Most of us can give numerous examples of churches which have been torn apart by strife and church splits. In most cases, the scars and wounds from that conflict have never been fully healed. That is the main reason why the Spirit of God has been grieved and in many cases grieved away. The Holy Spirit does not stay where there is strife and dissension in the Body of Christ.

QUESTION: Do you recall what **Acts 2:1:** says



And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

ANSWER: This is the kind of atmosphere where the Spirit thrives and when the Christians are happy and healthy and holy and humble. This is the kind of atmosphere that existed in the Church of the First Century.

Let us take a look at:

Acts 2:41-47:

41

Then they that gladly received His Word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43

And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 *And all that believed were together, and had all things common;*

45 *And sold their possessions and goods, and parte them to all men, as every man had need.*

46

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the Temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

In our text, we have the secret to this blessed unity in the Family of God, endeavoring to keep unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. The Holy Spirit produces this unity and we are to put out a special effort to keep it.

ILLUSTRATION: When there is some trouble area in our physical bodies, some infection, or pain, or malfunctioning organ, the whole body feels its affects. Even so it is in the Body of Christ.

The Apostle Paul was informed by the house of Chloe, that there were contentions amongst the Christians at Corinth.

1 Corinthians 1:11: For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

QUESTION: Were they tattletales and needed to be reproved?

ANSWER: NO!!!! Here is the reason; covering up sin is strictly forbidden.

- 1. *Leviticus 5:1: And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.***
- 2. *Leviticus 20:4-5:***
⁴
And if the people of the land do any ways hide their eyes from the man, when he giveth of his seed unto Molech, and kill him not:
⁵
Then I will set My Face against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people.
- 3. *Ezekiel 33:30: Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the Word that cometh forth from the LORD.***
- 4. *Matthew 18:17: And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.***

IN SALVATION

We are brought into right relationship with God, when we get saved from our sins. There is no longer that warfare and enmity between us and the Godhead. In salvation we are also brought into the Family of God. Now, we are members one with another, just like the many members in our physical body are to be in union and unison with each other.

If sin gets into one or some of the members of that Body of Christ; or, carnality is prevalent, then that unity of fellowship is broken. Then strife, contentions, and divisions will arise. These things are a terrible grief to our Lord and to the Holy Spirit. He expects us who are the spiritual leaders of the Church to deal with this spiritual cancer before it wrecks the whole body of believers.

- a. 1 Corinthians 12:13: For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.**



- b. 1 Corinthians 12:26: And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.**
- c. Ephesians 5:30: For we are members of His Body, of His Flesh, and of His Bones.**
- d. Ephesians 5:32: This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**
- e. 1 Corinthians 1:10: Now I beseech you, brethren, by the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**
- f. 1 Corinthians 1:12-16:**
- ¹² **Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.**
- ¹³ **Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?**
- ¹⁴ **I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;**

¹⁵ ***Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.***

¹⁶ ***And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.***

Text:

Ephesians 4:3-6:

³ ***Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.***

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.***

The Holy Spirit produces a special UNITY, which no mortal on earth can duplicate or imitate.

ILLUSTRATION:

The Holy Spirit places within the minds of geese to fly in a **V** formation. Why?



Scientists have recently discovered that this V formation greatly helps to pierce and penetrate into the atmosphere most effectively.

Secondly, each bird in flapping its wings creates an up lift to the bird following them. By flying in this V formation, for the whole flock adds at least 71% greater

flying range, than if each bird flew alone, and on its own.

When a goose falls out of the formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of the atmosphere in trying to go solo, and quickly gets back into the formation.

Thereby, they can take advantage of this lifting coming from the bird in front of it.

NOTE: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those whom God has placed in leadership position, and also head in the same direction.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back to the end position, and the next will move up and take its place in the formation. This is called *flying point*.

It makes spiritual sense to take turns in leadership roles, in that way all may experience the privileges and also the responsibilities of leadership.

QUESTION: Why do these geese HONK?

ANSWER: They do so to encourage the ones in front, to keep up their speed.

QUESTION: What are we saying when we honk from behind?

If a goose gets sick, or wounded by gun fire, and falls out of formation, two others will fall out with it, and stay with it until it is able to fly again, or dies. Only then, will these two helpers depart from it and await another group of geese which are flying south, and falls into formation with the shortest one, generally.

If we have the good sense of the goose,
we will help support
the other members of the Body of Christ
who are going on with God.



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