

The Gift of Men
September 11, 2022
Ephesians 4:1-16

Unity is not uniformity. "Unity comes from within and is a spiritual grace, while uniformity is the result of pressure from without. Someone has said you can take 2 tom cats and tie their tails together and hang them over a clothesline. You have union but you don't have unity." ~ **Adrian Rogers**

I heard about a man who was shipwrecked on a desert island. He was the only person on that island. And he had to make do, so he prepared himself a house and some other amenities. And years later, the rescue people came, and they saw this man had built a house, a magnificent house. Next door to his house was a building with a steeple on it. They asked him, "What is that?"

"Well," he said, "I built a church to worship in."

But next door to that building was another building with a steeple on it.

"Well, what is that?"

"Oh," he said, "that's another church." He said, "I got upset at the first one and moved my membership"

"Church" is messy because people are messy. We must be willing to get in the trenches and work on us as we love each other, remembering the calling God has on us.

Calling which you were called – To follow Jesus!

Lowliness (Humility)

"Humility is that grace that, when you know you have it, you have lost it." ~
Unknown

Putting Christ first, others second, self, last.

It's not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.

Gentleness (Meekness)

It is not weakness, but power under control. Moses was a meek man, but he exercised tremendous power.

Christ was meek and lowly (Matthew 11) and yet he drove the money changers from the Temple.

Longsuffering

The ability to endure discomfort without fighting back. Jesus often modeled this for us.

Bearing with one another in love.

The practical out working of longsuffering.

Not giving up

Loving

Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

It literally reads in the Greek, “being eager to maintain, or guard, the unity of the Spirit.”

The word *endeavoring* is used as a present participle, which means it is continuous.

One:

Body Overall and Local

Spirit Indwells every Believer.

Hope The anticipation of the Lord taking His Bride (The Church) to heaven.

Lord Unity

Faith Jude 3

Baptism Look back to the Spirit.

One God The only one and true God.

Prayer Focus:

- **Am I a part of God’s Church (a Believer)?**
- **Am I a part of God’s Church (a local body of Believers)?**
- **Am I committing to connect, commit and serve God’s Church as I love each person?**