

Be Unified (Week 8)
Ephesians 4:1-11
April 2nd 2023

Therefore...why? Paul reminds us that he is a prisoner of the Lord

Worthy of the calling which you were called

Unity is not uniformity. Unity comes from within and is a spiritual grace, while uniformity is the result of pressure from without!¹

A Walk implies

Decision
Destination
Determination²

If we are to preserve the unity of the Spirit and walk worthy of the calling, we must possess the 7 graces that Paul lists:

Humility or lowliness

“Humility is the grace that, when you know you have it, you have lost it.”³

Christ first, others second, me last

Not thinking less of our self but thinking of ourselves less.

Goes against our nature

Meekness

Is not weakness

Moses was meek and yet he exercised tremendous power (Nahum 12:3)

Our Lord was meek and lowly in heart (Matthew 11) and yet He drove out the money changers in the temple.

“In the Greek this word was used for a soothing medicine, a colt that had been broken, and a soft wind. In each case you have power, but power is under control.”⁴

¹ Warren Wiersbe

² Adrian Rogers

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid.

Longsuffering

Long tempered – the ability to endure discomfort without **fighting** back.

Slowness is avenging wrongs or retaliation.⁵

Forbearance (follows from longsuffering) – patience 1 Cor 13:4 – a fruit of the Spirit

Bearing with one another in love

Endeavor

Being eager to maintain or guard the **unity** of the Spirit

The spiritual unity of a home, family, small group, church or anything is the responsibility of every believer and it never ends.

Peace

James 3:13-4:10

These are the graces and the grounds for the unity of those graces:

1 Body – The Lord's overall Church

1 Spirit – The Holy Spirit - Not of this world or any others

1 Hope of your calling – The return of Christ

1 Lord – Only 1 name by which all men will be saved

1 Faith – The Lord's and nothing taken away or added

1 Baptism – Where He places us in Gods Body

1 God and Father – Jehovah

Did not our own Lord carry out these graces even as He was being readied for His crucifixion?

Prayer Focus:

**Do I seek to keep the unity?
What about the 7 graces?
What is my foundation?**

⁵ Adrian Rogers