

# THE KEY TO UNITY



**Unity is one of the topics Paul wrote about in his letter to the Ephesians.**

**People from diverse races and cultures were part of the church in Ephesus. Paul taught them the key to unity, so they could work together.**

**This unity involves all the spheres of life.**



### **THE KEY TO UNITY**



**Unity in Christ. Ephesians 1:3-14.**



**Unity without borders. Ephesians 2:11-22.**



### **THE SPHERES OF UNITY**



**Church and unity. Ephesians 4:1-6.**



**Church leaders and unity. Ephesians 4:11-12.**



**Relationships and unity. Ephesians 5:15-6:9.**

# UNITY IN CHRIST

**"And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth."  
(Ephesians 1:10 NLT)**

**God wants to repair the breach that sin caused, so all His children can become one again through Christ.**

**To this end, God decided to adopt us as children. We became part of His family (v. 5)**

**That means that everyone has been predestined to be saved (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:6; 2 Peter 3:9)**



**When we accept that sublime destiny, God gives us the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of His promises (v. 13-14)**



# UNITY WITHOUT BORDERS

**“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.” (Ephesians 2:14)**



**God made the covenant of the promise with the people of Israel and give them circumcision as a mark of that covenant.**

**Israel didn't share God's promise but built a figurative wall to keep the Gentiles separated instead.**

**There were big signs in the Temple that kept the non-Jews from entering the sections reserved for the Jews.**

**The cross brought every wall down, ending with separation. It circumcised Jews and Gentiles with the circumcision of the heart.**

**We are one people now, united in a “holy temple” “by one Spirit” (v. 21, 18)**



# CHURCH AND UNITY

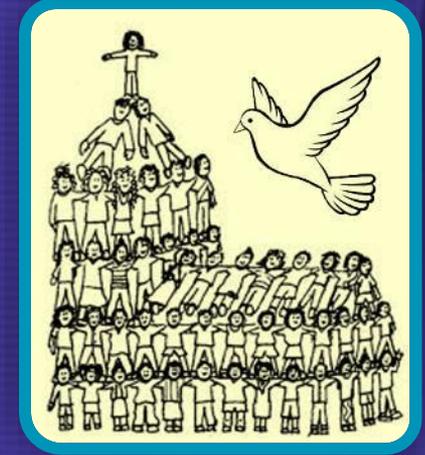
"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3 NIV)

We are called to cooperate to bring Christ's unity to the Church.

What can we do in that direction (v. 1-3)?

1. Behave decently
2. Bear with one another with lowliness and gentleness
3. Let the Holy Spirit act to maintain peace

Which seven elements keep the believers together (v. 4-6)?



One  
body



One  
Spirit



One  
hope



One  
Lord



One  
faith

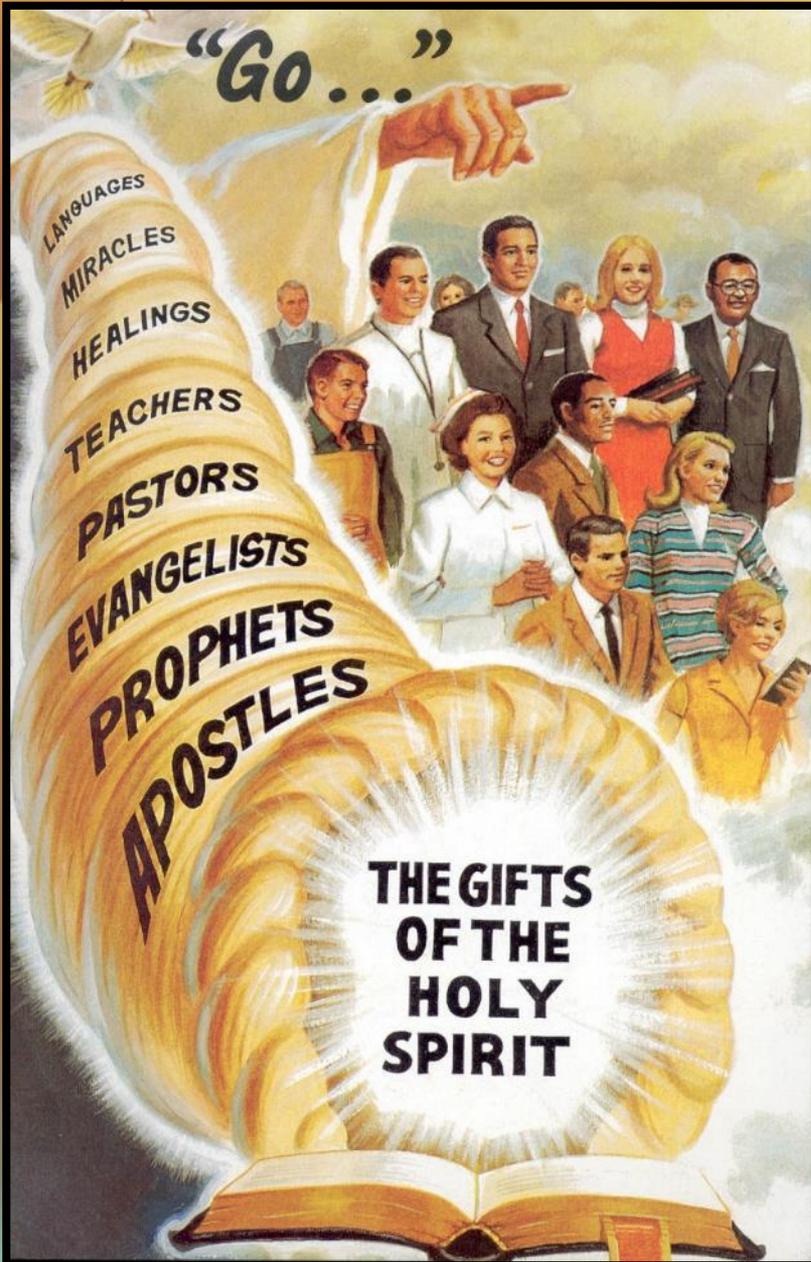


One  
baptism



One  
God  
and  
Father  
of all

# CHURCH LEADERS AND UNITY



“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”  
(Ephesians 4:11-12)

Paul listed five types of gifts that enable the leaders to lead the Church with two specific goals:

1. *The equipping of the saints for the work of ministry.* Helping each Church member to preach the Gospel.
2. *The edifying of the body of Christ.* Encouraging and promoting unity in Christ.

God gives these gifts to specific people. These people are called to serve others and cooperate with one another (Mark 10:43)

# RELATIONSHIPS AND UNITY

**"submitting to one another in the fear of God." (Ephesians 5:21)**

Paul encouraged us to be "filled with the Spirit" (v. 18). We'll be united through the Spirit by submitting to one another.

This involves three spheres of our lives:

## Social relationships:

- Our conversations are focused in God with joy and a spirit of submission (5:19-21)

## Family relationships:

- Christ's selfless love and respect is shown in marriage and between parents and children (5:22-6:4)

## Work relationships:

- Managers and employees respect one another, because we are all equal before God (6:5-9)



**“God is glorified by songs of praise from a pure heart filled with love and devotion to Him. When consecrated believers assemble, their conversation will not be upon the imperfections of others or savor of murmuring or complaint; charity, or love, the bond of perfectness, will encircle them. Love to God and their fellow men flows out naturally in words of affection, sympathy, and esteem for their brethren. The peace of God rules in their hearts; their words are not vain, empty, and frivolous, but to the comfort and edification of one another.”**

E.G.W. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, cp. 86, p. 509)