

GOD'S SEVEN-POINT UNITY PROGRAM

Eph. 4: 1 - 6

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Anybody who has read the Bible with any understanding at all knows religious division is not approved of by God in the Bible.
2. One learns by reading the Bible that just any kind of unity is not approved by God.
3. Some popular views of unity:
 - (1) *"Just forget that we are divided and let charitable feelings exist between the various religious groups."*
 - (2) Others say, *"We are already united; that denominations are just so many branches of the true church"*. John 15: 1- 7
 - (3) Some say, *"Just look over doctrinal differences; that God's grace will cover their ignorance, so just fellowship those in error and have unity"*.
4. But, this is not Bible unity -- In the Bible there is ONLY ONE GROUND for unity -- that ground is to respect the authority of Christ -- Matt. 28:18; John 17: 19 - 21.
5. In this text, Paul points out two conditions to bring about Bible unity:
 - (1) First, a proper disposition.
 - (2) Second, a proper doctrinal basis.

I. THE PROPER SPIRIT OR DISPOSITION

1. A sense of proper appreciation for salvation -- Eph. 4:1 -- This includes a proper appreciation for the church, worship, work and the plan of salvation.
 - (1) Unless we have a proper appreciation for the church, no effort will be made to save it from the ravages of strife.
2. We must have humility -- Eph. 4:2
 - (1) Unless we have the humility of a child we cannot enter the kingdom -- Matt. 18:1 - 4
 - (2) Many divisions come because of ambitious men who are more interested in themselves than they are in the Body -- Acts 20: 29 - 30
3. We must have love -- Eph. 4:3
4. Each Christian must endeavor to keep unity -- Eph. 4:3
 - (1) He must exert himself to the utmost to keep unity.

II. THE DOCTRINAL BASIS FOR BIBLE UNITY HAS SEVEN POINTS:

1. There is ONE BODY
 - (1) This body is the church -- Eph. 1: 22 - 23
 - (2) The church Jesus built -- Matt. 16:18
 - (3) Jesus purchased the church with His blood -- Acts 20:28
 - (4) We are reconciled unto God in this one body -- Eph. 2:16
 - (5) We are baptized into one body -- I Cor. 12:13
 - (6) Unity in organization.
2. There is ONE SPIRIT -- Eph. 4:4

- (1) He was sent to guide the apostles into all truth -- John 14: 26; 16:13
- (2) He converts and guides men today through the Word of God-- Rom. 1:16; II Tim. 3:16 - 17; Eph. 6:17
- (3) I John 4:1; Matt. 7: 15
- (4) Unity in Guidance.
- 3. There is ONE HOPE -- Eph. 4:4
 - (1) The hope of eternal life in heaven -- Matt. 25: 46; John 14: 1- 6
 - (2) Unity in Aspiration
- 4. There is ONE LORD -- Eph. 4:5
 - (1) Only one in authority.
 - (2) Jesus Christ is Lord today -- Acts 2:36
 - (3) God has given Him all authority -- Matt. 28:18; Heb. 1: 1- 2
 - (4) Unity in authority.
- 5. There is ONE FAITH -- Eph. 4: 5
 - (1) One system of revealed truth, the gospel -- Jude 3; Gal. 1: 6 - 9
 - (2) The is one, not many, faiths that saves.
 - (3) Unity in Doctrine -- 2 John 9
- 6. There is ONE BAPTISM -- Eph. 4: 5
 - (1) The baptism of the great commission -- Matt. 28: 18 - 20; Mk. 16: 15 - 16
- 7. There is ONE GOD and FATHER of all -- Eph. 4:6
 - (1) God the Father is the object of our worship -- John 4: 23 - 24; Matt. 4:10
 - (2) Unity in Worship.

Preached at Underwood Hts. 1975