

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

“Perfect Unity”

Worthy of Maintaining

Why would Paul be compelled to **urge** us to “maintain the **unity of the Spirit** in the **bond of peace**”? (**Ephesians 4:3**)

McAlpine taught us, “If we get the **why** right, we’ll get the **what** right.”

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In **I Corinthians** Paul begins by correcting them over **divisions among them** over lesser issues than eternal life in Christ Jesus

- He points out that **Christ is not divided** (They justified themselves in their divisions)
- He then corrects them for ignoring sin in their midst
- Then in **II Corinthians** he corrects them for **becoming divided** over correcting the sin, rather than **reuniting** over it

He reaffirms that God’s **ONLY** purpose, in **ANY** of our relations is indivisible **ONENESS** **in Christ Jesus!** (**John 17:20-23**)

- **Matthew 18:15-20**, even sin occasions **the restoration of Oneness**

And yet... God’s people continue to separate from each other

- Usually over things having nothing to do with sin. **Why?**

Christ Jesus paid His LIFE to make us **One IN Him!**

- The enemy comes only to **steal, kill** and **destroy** that oneness

As Paul instructs us in **II Corinthians 2:11**, “...lest Satan should take advantage of us; for **we are not ignorant of his devices.**”

- I was recently reminded that **God’s prescription for seeing life, other people, and our circumstances produces contentment...** while the seed of dissatisfaction produces unhappiness.
- “Whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (**Philippians 4:8**). **The devil focuses on the bad** at the expense of the good (**Zechariah 3:1-5**).

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What is the fullness of that Oneness?

- We started in **Ephesians 4:1-3**, and the whole chapter is **huge!**

Ephesians 4:11-16

- **Vs. 13**, “until we all reach **unity in the faith** and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to **the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**”
- That **cannot** exist in division

We’ll ask again with Paul – “**Is Christ divided?**”

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Paul begins **Ephesians 4** with the strong admonition to safeguard our “**unity of the Spirit**” in the bond of indivisible **relational security**

- How does he conclude that chapter?

Ephesians 4:30, “And do not **grieve the Holy Spirit** of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

- **How do we grieve the Holy Spirit?**

By not being as **committed to each other, as Jesus is to us**

- **Ephesians 4:1-3, 11-16 & 30**

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Does the Lord move people within His church?

- **Yes, He does. How?**
- Not because of **unstated, unresolved differences** among them
- **That grieves Him deeply.** It often grieves His people, too.

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When The Lord moves His people, He does it **openly** among them... **affirming His revealed will** for them all **in love.**

- In 40 years Revell & I have moved from a congregation twice
- Both times openly, with the full knowledge of those we were with
- Both times moving **TO** where God was planting us
- No one has had to ask, “Where are they? Why aren’t they here?”
- No one ever had to answer, “We don’t know.”

What is Perfect Oneness?

- Honoring each other like we honor Christ
- Don’t treat each other, like He wouldn’t treat us.

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I John 4:17,

“This is how **love is made complete among us** so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: **In this world we are like Jesus.**”