

**Ephesians Handout
Week Seventeen**

What binds us?

How do we then live?

Why is it so hard?

-

*Too bad...

How does Eph. 4:13 begin?

-

"In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity (grace)."

Example:

K. DeYoung "One person's gray area is another person's immorality. And one person's courageous conviction is another person's misplaced stubbornness."

It's a family thing.

It's a slippery slope on both sides. But perfect truth and perfect love really can coexist.

They came together in _____. They can come together in _____.

Example:

Example:

Parachurch stuff-

The miraculous wonderworking power of the gospel for unity.

Relational unity is built on foundational _____.

4 One body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

One body: Divinely created. Supernaturally constituted. God ordained. God directed.

Why this metaphor?

One Spirit:

Zech. 4:6

One hope of your calling: Our calling is to _____. Based on what?

Heb. 6:18, Col. 1:27, Eph. 1:11, 1 Thes. 4:13, Titus 2:13

One Lord: Unequivocally...

Deut. 6:4

One faith:

One baptism: The process of conversion summarized by the visual ritual

1 Cor. 12:13

One God and Father of all Who is over all and through all and in all:

Summary. What are we united around?

-Common

-Common

-Common

-Common

Why we strive for unity

- Eph. 4, Phil. 1:27, Col. 3:12-15

-It's not an end in itself.

If not for the sake of the gospel, other agendas and priorities will take over.

If not for God's glory, other people will take precedence.

-We cannot unite around a lie or a sin. Phil.3:2

Know the difference between bad dogs and dumb sheep.

-We cannot sacrifice purity for unity or vice versa.

The point of the list—Everything we share is so much bigger than anything that can divide!

Gage for unity. Degree of freedom from division among true Christians—not competing, not insulting or disparaging but loving and serving and building our one Spirit.

Within your church building.

Bonhoeffer -- Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest, and sacrificial.

Destroyers come in two ways.

The obvious ones

The not so obvious ones

Among the local believing churches.

Across the global church.

Paul moves from "all of you" to each one of you. From unity to diversity or uniqueness.

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Diversity _____ unity.