

## THE SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH: UNITY // Ephesians 4:1-6

*Morning message from the series, The Spirit-Filled Church*

In John 17, Jesus prays for his disciples, including a prayer for unity: “*Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one*” (John 17:11b). Unity indicates a oneness, a sameness of mind; it is spiritual glue as Christians hold together around Christ.

Unity is important because it creates an atmosphere for church growth; it opens doors for the church to have a spiritual blessing; and it invites the ministry of the Holy Spirit. (cf. Psalm 133:1)

### What is God teaching us about unity?

#### 1. Unity is the personal responsibility of every Christian (v.1)

Paul calls Christians to “walk in a manner worth of [your] calling.” The image of walking is used throughout the letter to the Ephesians and indicates how Christians are to work and behave as a result of their salvation. Our walk in Christ has never been more important than it is right now, and one way this will come out is through our unity in the church.

Our job is to: be a steward of unity. How so? Promote unity. Protect unity. Preserve unity

#### 2. Unity is the supernatural result of the Spirit-filled life (v. 2-3)

Evidence of a spirit-filled life includes producing spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:16, 22-23). It is impossible to produce this fruit without the filling of the Holy Spirit. Although all Christians are *indwelt* by the Spirit at salvation, a one-time, God-initiated act, Christians are commanded to seek regularly to be *filled* by the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), to live under his influence. Spirit-filled Christians make for Spirit-filled churches.

Action points:

- Listen to the voice of Christ
- Live in accordance to the will of Christ
- Long for the gospel of Christ to advance
- Learn to walk in humility of Christ
- Lead by following in the steps of Christ
- Love others as Christ has loved you
- Look for hope only in Christ
- Lean on the supernatural strength of Christ

#### 3. Unity is the sweet reflection of a sinner-saving God (v.4-6)

- All Christians belong to the same family (cf. John 1:12-13)
- All Christians have the same story (cf. John 14:6)
- All Christians walk the same journey (cf. Ephesians 2:10)
- All Christians serve the same God (cf. Acts 4:12)
- All Christians are going to the same place (Revelation 7:9-10)

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is unity in the church so important?
2. What is our greatest barrier to unity? How does the Holy Spirit help us to overcome these barriers?
3. What does it look like to preserve unity for the long term? What specific actions can we take now that will have a lasting effect on our unity in the future?