

Unity With Christ Unity With Christians (Part 2)

John 17:20-23

Unity Maintained. Ephesians 1-4

Ephesians 1 – Unity is IN CHRIST. (1:3)

1. Heard – Ephesians 1:13; Romans 10:17
2. Believed – Ephesians 1:13; Acts 19:5, 18
3. Repented – Acts 19:19; 20:21
4. Confessed – Acts 19:18; Romans 10:9-10
5. Baptized – Acts 19:5; 2:38

Unity Maintained. Ephesians 1-4

Ephesians 2 – Unity is based upon THE FOUNDATION (Apostles & Prophets).

1. "Dead in ... sin" Alive in Christ (2:5)
2. "Reconciled" in Christ. (2:14-16)
3. Preached Christ. (2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3:11)

Unity Maintained. Ephesians 1-4

Ephesians 3 – Unity by THE GOSPEL.

1. Preached to Gentiles. (3:2-6)
2. "Unsearchable riches of Christ." (3:8)
 - Previous generations did not know. Ephesians 3:3-5, 9
 - Prophets & angels did not know. 1 Peter 1:10-12
 - Wisdom of man could not reveal it. 1 Corinthians 1:18ff; cf. Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12

1 Corinthians 2:7-13 "revealed through the Spirit ... that we might know ..."

Unity Maintained. Ephesians 1-4

Ephesians 4 "KEEP THE UNITY..."

Who is to keep the unity?

- a. Those united "in Christ" upon the basis of the word of Christ!
- b. Those who heard and obeyed "the word of truth." (1:13)
- c. Those placed squarely "upon the foundation." (2:20)
- d. Those who accepted the preaching of "the unsearchable riches of Christ." (3:8)
- e. NO ONE ELSE!

Unity Maintained. Ephesians 1-4

How can these "keep the unity"?

- a. By keeping Christ and his word ... This keeps Christians one with Christ. cf. John 8:31
- b. Unity with Christ and his people is broken when one persists in believing, practicing and teaching things not found in "the word of truth!"
- c. To embrace the doctrines of men is to slip off "the foundation" and out of ... the "unity of the spirit," and to depart from the "unsearchable riches of Christ."

Unity Maintained. Ephesians 1-4

Ephesians 4: 4-6

One God - Unity in Worship- Revelation 22:9; Matthew 4:10; John 4:24.

One Lord - Unity in Authority- Matthew 28:19; Colossians 3:17.

One Faith - Unity in Message- Jude 3

One Baptism - Unity in Practice -Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:13.

One Body - Unity in Organization- 1 Corinthians 12:20; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 5:25.

One Hope - Unity in Desire- Hebrews 6:19; 1 Corinthians 15:19; Romans 8:24-25

One Spirit - Unity in Revelation- John 16:13