

Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches. ACTS 15:37-41

D. We have different convictions. GALATIANS 2:11-12

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. GALATIANS 2:11-12

Application
Re-Establish Unity and Peace

The bond of peace is restored when we:

1. Ask for and grant forgiveness.
2. Accept and honor each other in spite of differences.
3. Speak the truth in love.

...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. EPHESIANS 4:15-16

4. Put the glory of God and cause of Christ above our personal preferences.
Peter/Jesus

Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's." MATTHEW 16:22-23

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Sermon Notes

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The Chapel in the Oaks

Our Oneness is our Witness

EPHESIANS 4:1-13

MAIN IDEA: PRESERVING THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IS A KEY TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND CORPORATE IMPACT

- I. THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IS PRESERVED WHEN WE EXHIBIT THE _____ OF THE SPIRIT.

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. EPHESIANS 4:1-3

- A. Walk in a worthy manner.

Peace Maker		Peace Breaker
1. Worthy	vs.	Unworthy
2. Humility	vs.	Arrogance
3. Gentleness	vs.	Harshness
4. Patience	vs.	Impatience
5. Forbearance	vs.	Reactionary

Forbearance = the patient endurance of offenses and refraining from retaliation.

B. Walk in Love

“agape” – a radical commitment to seek God’s best for others.

II. THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IS ONLY _____
IN THE “BOND OF PEACE.” EPHESIANS 4:3-6

...being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. EPHESIANS 4:3

- A. Unity is produced by the Spirit.
- B. Unity is preserved by the Saints.
- C. Unity requires a _____ to peace.
- D. Unity reflects our Spiritual relationship.

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

- We are members of one Body.
- We are indwelt by one Spirit.
- We are called to one eternal destiny.
- We have one Lord.
- We have one faith.
- We have one baptism.
- We have one God and Father.

“Unity” defined by Webster:

1. Singleness of purpose or action.
2. The fact of being whole through the unification of separate individual parts.

3. A combining of parts that exhibit a prevailing oneness of purpose, thought, spirit or style.

III. THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IS NOT _____

- A. We have _____ roles/gifts EPHESIANS 4:7-13

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, “WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.” (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. EPHESIANS 4:7-13

- B. We have diverse _____. MARK 3:16-19

And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder"); and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him. MARK 3:16-19

- C. We have diverse _____. ACTS 15:37-41

Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and