

Let's continue in our study of Ephesians. Last week we started to look at Ephesians 4:3-6

**Ephesians 4:3-6** *being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*

We are talking about unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. This topic of unity in the bond of peace goes very deep, so we broke it into 3 bite-sized chunks:

- 1) God's perspective on unity
- 2) Our responsibility to preserve unity
- 3) The practical walking out of unity and lack thereof

Last week we looked at it from God's perspective.

Today we are going to look at our responsibility to preserve unity.

We are called to "*being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*"

I put some Greek words contained in this statement at the bottom of your notes.

Our responsibility is not to "create" unity in the Spirit, but to make every effort to take care of and guard it.

The Father has set up His Kingdom to operate in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Shalom – peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility) – we have the kuleana (responsibility) to be faithful stewards of it and walk in when possible.

**Romans 12:16-18** *Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. <sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.*

This doesn't come naturally; we need to be intentional and diligent

**Romans 14:19** *So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.*

In order to be diligent and make every effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit, we must allow the Holy Spirit to work deep in our lives and transform us from the inside out. Unless we cooperate with the Holy Spirit to strengthen our inner man (Soul/Psyche) like Paul prayed in the last chapter, it will be very difficult to preserve the unity of the Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 1:10** *Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

**Colossians 3:12-15** *So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. <sup>14</sup> Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

**1 Peter 2:1-3** *Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, <sup>2</sup> like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, <sup>3</sup> if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.*

**1 Peter 3:8** *To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; <sup>9</sup> not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.*

**Ephesians 4:29-32** *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

In order to biblically guard the unity of the Spirit, we must humble ourselves and recognize the Father's divine orchestration in creating us all very unique in order to serve His purpose. Our human tendency is to measure others and "grade" others from our perspective rather than God's perspective. The Holy Spirit led Paul to address this within the analogy of the Body of Christ:

**1 Corinthians 12:18-26** *But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one member, where would the body*

be? <sup>20</sup> But now there are many members, but one body. <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, <sup>24</sup> whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. **But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, <sup>25</sup> so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.** <sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

### **Hale Pule Question:**

**What areas of your life do you need to allow the Father to strengthen through the power of Holy Spirit so that you can be more diligent in preserving the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace?**

**How can others pray for you in these areas?**

- I. Next week we will talk about some of the principles concerning walking this out.
- II.
- III. Greek words for background and clarity:
- IV.
- V. Diligent = Spoudazo = to exert one's self, endeavour, give diligence – it is often translated, "Make every effort"

Preserve = Tereo = to attend to carefully, take care of, to guard