**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS: THE WEALTH AND WALK OF A BELIEVER**

*“Walking in Unity”-Part I*

**INTRO:**

* **THE PLEA FOR UNITY**
* **Paul’s** instruction to the churches was **filled** with references to unity in the body. (I Cor. 1:10; I Cor. 12:25; II Cor. 13:11; Phil. 2:2; Rom. 15:5-7; Rom. 16:17)

*1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the* ***same thing****, and that there be* ***no divisions*** *among you; but that ye be perfectly* ***joined together*** *in the* ***same mind*** *and in the* ***same judgment****.*

*1 Corinthians 12:25 That there should be* ***no schism*** *in the body; but that the members should have the* ***same care*** *one for another.*

*2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of* ***one mind****, live* ***in peace****; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*

*Philippians 2:2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be* ***likeminded****, having the* ***same love****, being of* ***one accord, of one mind.***

*Romans 15:5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be* ***likeminded*** *one toward another according to Christ Jesus: 6 That ye may with* ***one mind*** *and* ***one mouth*** *glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*7 Wherefore* ***receive ye one another****, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.*

*Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren,* ***mark them*** *which cause* ***divisions*** *and* ***offences*** *contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*

* King David stated how **good** it is for brethren to dwell in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

*Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!*

* **Jesus** prayed for unity among believers (Jn. 17:20-23)

*John 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

*21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

*22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

*23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

* God **hates** that which causes disunity among brethren. (Pr. 6:19)

*Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the Lord hate: Yea, seven are an abomination unto him:*

*Proverbs 6:19 A false witness that speaketh lies, And he that soweth discord among brethren.*

* Jesus said that a house **divided** cannot stand. (LK. 11:17)

*Luke 11:17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth.*

* **THE PROBLEM OF DISUNITY**

**Examples: The Corinthian Church; Paul and Barnabas; Euodius and Syntheche**

* **Spiritual Immaturity (I Cor. 3:1-3)**

*1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

*2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.*

*3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

**The Bible is clear….Your relationship with God is only as good as your relationship with the people God has placed in your life.**

*1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*

*2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.*

*3 and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned,*

*Matthew22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*

*37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

*38 This is the first and great commandment.*

*39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

**If the horizontal’s not good, the vertical is not good.**

*1 John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*

* **Selfishness (James 4:1-2)**

*James 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*

*2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*

* **THE PURSUIT OF UNITY**
* **Biblical unity cannot be created, it can only be maintained.**

*Ephesians 4:3 Endeavouring to* ***keep*** *the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

* **In order to maintain Biblical unity, we must work at it.**

*Ephesians 4:3* ***Endeavouring*** *to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

*“endeavor” – to use speed; to labor, try hard to achieve*

*Hebrews 12:14* ***Follow*** *peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*

*Romans 14:19 Let us therefore* ***follow after*** *the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*

**Endeavor to maintain unity by…**

* Refusing to **murmur** or **complain** (Phil. 2:14-15)

*Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*

*15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

* Refusing to participate in **gossip** (Pr. 26:20; Pr. 25:23)

*Proverbs 26:20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: So where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.*

*Proverbs 25:23 The north wind driveth away rain: So doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.*

* Following **Biblical** principles when offended (Mt. 18:15-18)
* **Forgiving** when you are wronged (Eph. 4:31-32)