

The Church Is One

Ephesians 4:1-3

The Old Testament hymn to Unity, Psalm 133:1

The Prayer of Jesus, John 17:20-21

God does not approve of all unity, Revelation 2:14-15, 20

God does not condemn all division, Rom. 16:17-18, Eph. 5:11

I. Appreciation of Scripture and Church (Eph. 3)

A. Scripture came by revelation, it is inspired

B. Scripture can be understood

Why do some not see it?

False Teachers, 2 Pet. 2:1-2

Unlearned, 2 Pet. 3.

Unstable, 2 Pet. 3.

C. The Church: God's amazing plan

Eph. 3:3 By revelation made known the mystery

Eph 3:6 Gentiles made fellow heirs through gospel

God's wisdom seen in the church

Eph 3:9 the fellowship of the mystery

Eph 3:10 Wisdom of God made known by the church

It is God's eternal purpose

Eph 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly

above all that we ask or think, according to the power that

works in us, to him be the glory in the church by Christ

Jesus to all generations forever and ever amen.

II. Attitudes of Unity, Eph. 4:1-16

A. Basis: What has happened in our lives, Eph. 4:1-3

B. Basic Attitudes:

1. Lowliness: a humility based on our own limitations

2. Gentleness/meekness: Quality seen in Jesus

3. Long-suffering: slow to anger and seek revenge

4. Bearing with one another in love, Rom. 2:4

III. Action

A. Each person accepting his place service, v.11

B. Know religious error and reject it, v. 14

C. Speak the truth, v. 15

D. Every joint supplying his/her part, v. 16

Where is the ideal of unity to be realized?

The only functional organization of Christians is the local church.