

## SERMON NOTES

## EPHESIANS 4:1-6

### THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

#### INTRODUCTION

The opening sentence of Ephesians 4 marks a turning point in the book. Paul moves from doctrine to duty, from creed to conduct. In the first three chapters he told the Ephesian believers what they ought to believe, in the last three chapters he tells them how they ought to live given what they believe. The theme for all that he will say in these chapters is given in the first verse of chapter 4, “*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.*” Everything that follows is concerned with how they are to live “*in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.*”

#### The Qualities that Produce Christian Unity (verse 2)

Paul lists four qualities or virtues:

1. Humility
2. Gentleness
3. Patience
4. Forbearance, or bearing with one another
5. Love

#### The Origin of Christian Unity (verses 4-6)

Paul lists seven things which are the basis of Christian unity. All of these things have their origin in God:

1. One body
2. One Spirit
3. One hope
4. One Lord
5. One faith
6. One baptism
7. One God and Father

#### The Call for Christian Unity (verse 3)

Paul urges believers to be “*eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*” Notice that unity does not have to be manufactured; it exists. God gives Christian unity. It is for us to maintain it or to break it.

What can we do?

1. Rejoice in our Christian unity; reflecting often upon its origin in the Triune God.
2. Understand what is the basis of Christian unity. It is the gospel.
3. Pray much for the help of the Holy Spirit to work in us to cultivate the character that produces Christian unity.
4. We must be peacemakers.

