

## The One's of Unity

Ephesians 4:4-6 Sunday AM, September 17, 2023

**Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-6** (NASB95) Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, <sup>3</sup> 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.*

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk—on what basis does he implore them? On the basis of the eternal purpose of God which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord to bring many to be sons/daughters of God, **to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.** Paul's place in this plan? **To preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches in Christ.** Carrying out God's calling is what has led to Paul's tribulations. THIS is why Paul says, **I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.** Failure to see both the privilege and responsibility of God's calling to speak of Christ daily results in focusing elsewhere, avoiding the pain of faithful discipleship, making us unfaithful as disciples of Christ. THIS is why Paul prays God would strengthen them **with power through His Spirit in the inner man, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.** Contemplating and living by God's power inside His great love, Paul responds to this prayer with confidence and praise. <sup>20</sup> **Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, <sup>21</sup> to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.** THIS confidence in the security of God's love and His power to enable what He commands backs Paul's call to ALL believers to walk worthy of God's calling. This does NOT mean being focused on your own personal calling that seems to fit. If you are saved, your task is to follow Jesus and build His kingdom His way. Look to God, love Him, listen to His words very carefully, and in communion with God, seek His provision to fulfill it.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): Facing a Task Unfinished

Fulfill your calling, walk worthy **with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** This means you must interact with other believers to intentionally live, study, and serve. Other believers are not merely for your spiritual benefit and enjoyment NOR for surrounding yourself with those who are "right" or easy to be with. To include the others He has placed you with in your thoughts of spiritual growth and service requires much patience because the process is messy and very slow. Don't live focusing on the impossibility. Live focusing on Christ, the Head of the church! These attitudes required result from the Spirit lifting up Christ's past and present work to empower you. Walk with God!

### \*Hymn #451: O Master, Let me Walk with Thee \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn **Choir: How Beautiful** Scripture: 1 Corinthians

**10** (NASB95) For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food; <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup> Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. <sup>7</sup> Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY."<sup>8</sup> Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. <sup>9</sup> Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. <sup>10</sup> Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup> I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say. <sup>16</sup> Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup> Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread. <sup>18</sup> Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar? <sup>19</sup> What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? <sup>20</sup> No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. <sup>21</sup> You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. <sup>22</sup> Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we? <sup>23</sup> All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. <sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor. <sup>25</sup> Eat anything that is sold in the meat market without asking questions for conscience' sake; <sup>26</sup> FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS. <sup>27</sup> If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat anything that is set before you without asking questions for conscience' sake. <sup>28</sup> But if anyone says to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for conscience' sake; <sup>29</sup> I mean not your own conscience, but the other man's; for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience? <sup>30</sup> If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks? <sup>31</sup> Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; <sup>33</sup> just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.

### Offering: \*Doxology:

There is ONE clear focal point which Pastor Jahn will call the "One's of Unity." **one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.** You must not merely sing this song, but LIVE these words if you would walk worthy of your calling.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): We Worship Christ the Cornerstone

**You may be seated.** What does it mean to Be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in bond of peace? It does not center on peace, but rather on the unity of the Spirit. What does it mean to yield to the Spirit, to be led by the Spirit? It is not as feely as it sounds. Did you hear Paul's plea to learn from Israel's mistakes in I Corinthians 10? They were all given so much from God, and yet they strayed from living lives pleasing to Him. They craved evil, they were idolaters, they grumbled. Where do these descriptions fit your lives more than you would like to admit? The gospel lives sacrificially—**Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.** Do you think about all the implications of your choices in how to live and please God? We are all affected by how you live—your goals, your desires, your attitudes. **Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.** How do you do this? Love God. Did you follow beauty in the choir number? how beautiful—what? Hands that served the last supper, the feet that walked to the cross. Don't just think of Jesus' death, think of His call for you to trust His complete work to bring you to God—to die as you follow Him so the life of Christ might be seen through you—right now. Not when you look right or feel ready. Meditate on Christ as pastor prepares to preach and LIVE these attitudes and actions.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): The Servant King

### Message: The One's of Unity Ephesians 4:4-6

### \*Hymn #277: The Church's One Foundation \*Prayer