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PUTTING EFFORT INTO KEEPING THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

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The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus endeavoring, *“to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace”* (Ephesians 4:3). Certainly *“the unity of the spirit”*, *“and the “unity of the faith”* in verse 13, are the same, actually, this is a walk *“according”* or in *“harmony”* with the gospel of Christ. All Christians are to be united in Christ, as Christ prayed to the father for their oneness (John 17:20-21).

This unity is fully demonstrated amongst the brethren in Jerusalem church, which was composed of many members, yet they were of one heart and *“one”* soul (Acts 4:32). Before moving forward to looking into various aspect which are vital while cultivating or working out to attain this unity, I wish to first comment on *“in the bond of peace”*. If the believers are to stay coherent to one another, the Holy spirit revealed through our Lord Jesus Christ that the disciples needed to have peace with other one another (Mark 9:50).

Also inspired men, acclaimed the need for peace among the brethren. The apostle Paul had much to say on the issue, in Romans 12:18, he writes, *“if it is possible as it lieth (depends) on you, live peacefully with all men”*. On another occasion, *“he writes, “let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and the things wherewith one many edify one another”* (Romans 14:19). We also have the following scriptures which may broaden our focus on this factor that glues together all the believers; Galatians 5:22; 1 Thessalonians 5:13; 2 Tim 2:22; Heb 12:14; Jam 3:17; 1 Pet 3:11; 2 Pet 3:14. For unity to thrive, the cohesive power (bond) is peace (Eph. 4:3).

Let us now focus our altitude as we propagate for unity. The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus *“you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called”* (Eph 4:1). To the Colossians he wrote *“walk worthy of the Lord, unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work”* (Col 1:10). To the church at Thessalonica he wrote, *“that you would walk worthy of God”* (1 Thess. 2:12). From these passages, it is clear that we must have a walk, conduct, behavior, worthy to our master. If we conform our walk to the scriptures, we will be united and will remain that way.

The Lord also requires us to be humble, that is, to have a sense of one's smallness. Humility is the opposite of pridefulness or conceit. The Apostle Paul writes, *“in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves”* (Phil 2:3). According to Eph. 4:3 (a), Everyone MUST be ready to put effort, diligent, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Everyone, that is all Christians, must create a favorable environment for unity. Anything that causes division, disintegration, must be put aside.

Paul says that Christians are united in one body Eph 4:4. Here the members must have good relationship to the head, that is Christ. We are also united in One Spirit (Eph. 4:4). *“One Spirit”* could be suggestive to the source or revelation of inspiration, as the word of God is revealed or inspired through the Holy Spirit. The believers still have the unity of faith. The *“unity of faith”* denotes *“Unity of the message”*, the gospel. Child of God to diligently keep and preserve the unity of the spirit.

To God be glory and honor, if we will work to that end.