

MONDAY NIGHT MEETING

EPHESIANS - MAINTAINING UNITY

FEBRUARY 6, 2017

I. THE GOAL OF PAUL'S TEACHING IN EPHESIANS 4:1-16 IS GROWTH OF THE BODY NOT SIMPLY ITS UNITY

A. Unity is a necessary condition for growth

1. End is the church living in the fullness of the stature of Christ. (4:13)
2. Growth of the church requires the proper working of each individual part (4:16)

II. PAUL'S PRISON TEACHING ON UNITY

A. Ephesians - Strive to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1. Humility
2. Gentleness
3. Patience
4. Forbearance

Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

~ Ephesians 4:13

From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

~ Ephesians 4:16

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.

~ Ephesians 4:2-3

EPHESIANS - MAINTAINING UNITY

B. Philippians 2:2-3

1. Same mind - same disposition
2. Same love - all making an equal effort
3. United in spirit
4. Intent on one purpose
5. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit
6. Adopt a servant outlook

C. Colossians 3:14-15

1. Put on love which is the perfect bond of unity
2. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts
 - a. Rule - act as the umpire or referee when you make difficult calls

Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.

~ Philippians 2:2-3

Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

~ Colossians 3:14-15