



-- v. 1 – Paul’s great burden from prison is the unity of the church.

**A.) Unity in the church demands common \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 4-6).**

- True Christian unity is rooted in objective truth (Amos 3:3).
- v. 4-6 – Seven Non-Negotiable Convictions of Christian Unity
- As much as Scripture cares about how we relate to Christians in other churches, it is most concerned about how we relate to one another.

**B.) Unity in the church demands \_\_\_\_\_.**

- v.2 – “...bearing with one another in love.”
- Love, by its very definition in Scripture is a sacrifice (1 John 3:16).
- Sincere love is impossible without sincere sacrifice.
- It is, therefore, no surprise that the attitudes of unity that Paul sets forth in this passage all involve personal sacrifice.

**Four Non-Negotiable Attitudes of Christian Unity (v. 2-3)**

- 1.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 2:3-4, Titus 3:2, Micah 6:8)
  - Humility means sacrificing one’s self-interests for unity.
  - The humble believer is willing to give up his opinions and preferences for the sake of unity.
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Pro. 29:23, Jam. 3:17, 1 Cor. 4:21, Phil. 4:5)
  - Gentleness means sacrificing one’s self-importance for unity.
  - Gentleness means one would rather absorb a wrong than inflict one.
- 3.) \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thes. 5:14, 2 Peter 3:9, Ecclesiastes 3:11)
  - Patience means sacrificing one’s sense of timing for unity.
  - Just as God is patient with us, so should we be with one another.
- 4.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 3:13-14, Romans 15:1)
  - Forbearance means sacrificing my judgments of others for unity.
  - Over and over again, the Bible promises blessings to those who persevere.

**C.) Unity demands the best \_\_\_\_\_ of every member (v. 3).**

- Unity is hard...really hard...and it will not happen unless all of us are pursuing it with all of our hearts.
- We walk unworthily of our calling in Christ if we don't do all we can to safeguard the unity between us that Christ died to provide.

**D.) Unity in the church is more than \_\_\_\_\_ the sacrifice.**

- Whenever God is glorified, His people are blessed (Psa. 37:4, Jas. 1:25).
- Unity among God's people is a treasure greater than any blessing this world can afford (Psalm 133:1-3).
- Unity among us might be the single greatest \_\_\_\_\_ to the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we can give (John 17:20-23, John 13:34-35).
  - The great curse of division in the church is that it necessarily tramples the Gospel underfoot.
  - The great blessing of unity is that, by it, our testimony to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is confirmed in us and proclaimed powerfully by us.

**Conclusion**

- Being a member of this congregation means loving the truth and wholeheartedly pursuing humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance for the glory of God.
- What joy and testimony of grace it is, and what glory redounds to God when we all make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace!