

UNITY WITHIN THE CHURCH, (#2)

The church is one in Christ. We are united in position, purpose and are called to be one in practice. The church is a team and we are deigned and intended to work as a team to accomplish God's purpose.

30 aspects of the unity of the church

Positional

Died together – 2Tim 2:11
Raised together – Eph 2:6
Fitted together – Eph 4:16
Indwelt together – 1Cor 6:19
Fellow citizens – Eph 2:19
Fellow disciples – Jn 11:16
Fellow laborers – 1Cor 16:16

Buried together – Col 2:12
Chosen together – 1Pt 5:13
Held together – Eph 4:16
Yoked together – Phil 4:3
Fellow servants – Mt 24:49
Fellow prisoners – Rom 16:7
Fellow heirs – Eph 3:6

Practical

Taught together – Eph 4:15
Strive together – Rom 15:30
Sent together – 2Cor 12:18
Encouraged together – Rom 1:12
Feel together – Heb 10:34
Eat together – Mk 6:39
Glorified together – Rom 8:17
Joined with one soul/mind – Phil 2:12

Fight together – Phil 4:3
Suffer together – Rom 8:17
Benefited together – 1Cor 12:17
Rest together – Rom 15:32
Sing together – Eph 5:19
Reign together – 2Tim 2:12
Agree together – Rom 7:16
Eucharist 1Cor 10:20-21

Togetherness in the book of Ephesians

Eph 1:3 blessed together; **1:4** chosen together; **1:5** predestined together; **1:5** adopted into same family; **1:13** sealed together; **1:13** indwelt together; **1:23** body of Christ together; **2:1** sp dead together; **2:2-3** same worldly viewpoint; **2:5** made alive together; **2:6** raised/seated together; **2:8-9** saved together; **2:13-18** joined together with Israel; **2:19** citizens together; **2:20-22** built together into a temple; **3:6** heirs together; **4:1-6** oneness in Christ; **4:11** gifted together; **4:12** equipped for a common service; **4:13** unifies in the faith with the same example to follow; **4:15** speaking truth in love together; **4:16** fitted/held together; **4:21** taught together; **4:22-24** transformation; **4:25-5:2** relationships together; **5:19** worship together; **6:10-17** fight together; **5:18-19** pray together;

Eph 4:1-6 Unity of the church

1. Walk worthy (axios) [equal in value – weight] how we live to be equal to our call
2. Humility – proper view of self in relation to others – equal in Adam, equal in Christ; meekness – gentle, unassuming; longsuffering – restrained when provoked; forbearing – enduring one another's flaws; in love – unconditional commitment to benefit one another
3. Diligent to guard the unity of the Spirit – GHS is working to promote unity; bond of peace – bond – chain – we are chained together – keep the peace

Oneness

One body and one Spirit – we have been united together in Christ – God’s team **Eph.4-6** One hope/calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one GF over all

Phil 1:27 – Striving together as a team

Above all – *monos* – make this a very high priority

- Look for reasons to unite instead of reasons to divide

Conduct yourselves – *politeuomai* – live as a good citizen – Heavenly citizenship

- Pull together as citizens of heaven on a mission in the devil’s world
- Worthy of the gospel – teamwork is appropriate behavior for heavenly citizens

Stand firm – *steko* – 1Cor16:13 – in the faith; Phil4:1 – in the Lord; 2Thes2:15 – in the word; Gal5:1 – in spiritual freedom

By means of one spirit – *pneuma* – GHS, demon, human spirit, wind, breath, attitude, ghost, message – by means of one message as taught by GHS

Striving together – *sunathleo* – teamwork of an athletic team

- Different positions – one coach, one team, one mission, same message & methods. One soul – *psuche* – souls united together
- One body, one Spirit, one Lord, one Father, one family – united in our souls

Equality

1. Position – equal in Adam – equal in Christ
2. Priesthood – equal access to GF
3. Privilege – equal hearing before God, equal opportunity to offer sacrifices
4. Provision – equal opportunity for growth & service
5. Importance – equally valued, loved & desired by God
6. Service – equally necessary for the body to function properly

1Cor 12-14 – Paul discusses how each of us has been empowered to play a special role in the function of the body. He asserts the equal necessity of each one of us.

- Gift – specialized Spirit empowered ability to edify the body of Christ
- Growth – team mind-set – willingness to contribute to general welfare of the body

Commonality

1. Common Father and family – blood relations
2. Common nurturance – feed on the same word of God
3. Common means and method – empowered by GHS
4. Common worship – study, prayer, Eucharist, singing, fellowship
5. Common mission – custodians of evangelism & word of God
6. Common temptations and struggles

Phil 1:27 – Striving together as a team

27 – **only** – monos – above all, no matter what

27 – **conduct yourselves** – politeuomai – P.M.Impv – live as a citizen

- Phillipi was a Roman retirement colony populated by retired military
- Some of these retired soldier had earned their citizenship out of slavery
- Roman citizenship was a source of great privilege, protection and pride.
- Conduct yourselves as those who possess the privileges of heaven

27 – **worthy** – axios – equal in value – gospel of Christ

27 – **in my presence or in my absence** – no matter what

27 – **stand firm** – steko – PAI – that you are standing firm

- Steko – to stand up, stand around, stand firm in the truth
- Jn 8:44 – devil not standing in the truth; 1Cor 16:13 – stand firm in the faith; Gal 5:1 – stand firm in spiritual freedom; Phil 4:1 – stand firm in the Lord; 2Thes 2:15 – stand firm in the word;
- Stand firm together in the Lord, in the faith, in the word and in your sp freedom

27 – **by means of one spirit** (en + pneuma) GHS, demon, hu.spirit, wind, breath, attitude, ghost, message.

- The means of Christian unity is in believing one Christian message – doctrine
- To mutually embrace and grow in the word of God – grow together

27 – **one mind** – psuche – one soul – souls united together

- One body, one Spirit, one Lord, one Father, one family – united in our souls

27 – **striving together** – sunathleo – P.A.Ptc – play as a team in an athletic contest

- The church is a team – everyone of us has a position on the team
- As an athletic team must work together to win, so must the church fight together

27 - **For the faith from the gospel** - the objective of the team

- As a team we are to promote the gospel of Christ so that it might be believed
- Unity & teamwork of the church is the means of building credibility for the gospel

John 17:23

“I in them and You in Me.

**May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me
and have loved them even as You have loved Me.”**