

HTPC— Fall, 2017 Sunday School

Ephesians: The Beauty of Christ and His Blood-Bought Bride

Week 4: THEREFORE, I Urge You...Unity in the Church

I. Introduction: The Indicative and the Imperative in Paul (4:1; cf. Romans 12:1ff; etc.)

II. The Indicative and Imperative of Church Unity (vv. 3ff.)

A. Unity of the church as an indicative! (v.3)

1. Rooted in the Trinity itself (vv. 4-6)

2. One body, one hope, one faith, one baptism (vv. 4-5)

B. Unity of the church as an imperative (vv. 1-2)

1. Humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance (vv.1-2)

2. Speaking the truth in love (vv. 15-16)

C. Summary: We do not create church unity; we are called, by God's grace, to maintain it.

III. Diversity in the Church (in Context of Unity and as Means by which to Maintain Unity)

A. Each one (cf. vv. 4-6— Trinity!)

B. Christ's gift(s) to the church (vv. 8-10; cf. 1:9-10, 19-22; 3:9-11)

1. The particular gifts (v. 11)

2. Reason for the gifts (v. 12)

3. Duration of the gifts (v. 13)

4. Growing in maturity by the gifts (in the face of opposition) (v. 14)

5. CHRIST! (vv. 15-16)

IV. Conclusion: Humble use of the gifts God has given us by the power of the Holy Spirit as we maintain the unity of the church, a unity which has been given and which is preserved by God's grace. The church is supernatural to the core!