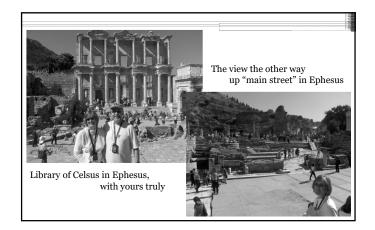
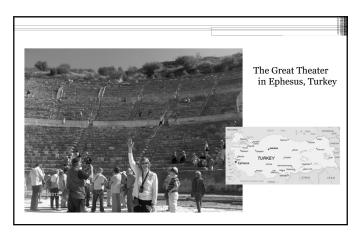
Meaningful Membership

What it Means to be the Church

Unity of the Body; **An Essential Necessity**

Ephesians 4:1-6 and 25-32





- ¹I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

Outline of Ephesians 4:1-6

- 1. The Calling
- 2. The Walking
- 3. The Goal

Digging Deeper

- 1. The Calling (the theme of Ephesians 1)
 - · We are chosen by the Father.
 - · We are redeemed by the Son.
 - · We are sealed by the Spirit.

Digging Deeper

2. The Walking

Walk in a manner worthy of the calling

- · From a foundation of love, walk:
 - · in humility,
 - · with gentleness,
 - · with patience, and
 - · showing forbearance.

Digging Deeper

3. The Goal

Preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

- · Remember, there is:
 - * one body
- * one Spirit
- * one hope
- one Lord
- * one faith
- * one baptism
- * one God and Father over all

²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸ Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need. ²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has also forgiven you.

(Ephesians 4:25-32)

Pursuing Unity - Some Specifics (1 of 2)

- Speak the truth.
- Be angry but do not sin.
- · Do not let the sun go down on your anger.
- · Work honestly to share with others.

Pursuing Unity - Some Specifics (2 of 2)

- Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth.
- · Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.
- · Se aside all bitterness, wrath, ...
- Be kind to one another.
- Forgive one another.

How does this play out in real life?

Let me share some examples from elders' meetings.

Consider this another "Elders' Update."

Our Challenge

- ➤ How is the Lord convicting you to pursue unity of the Spirit in the body of Christ at Crossroads Bible Church?
- What are some specific steps you can take today, this week, this month, ...?