

**TABLE TALK
THE CALL TO UNITY
6.7.2020**

The recent events in our Nation have caused us to stop and grieve the senseless loss of life. We are torn at heart over the violent nature of mankind. Realizing how fallen we are, we find ourselves looking for answers. Those answers can prove to be varied. That variation can result in a splintering of opinions, and division. And grief turns to argument; explanation turns into defensiveness.

All the while, Satan smiles because he has not only visited with death, but he's inflicted pain through dividing God's people. So we take to heart:

***Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:3***

Why is unity such a major driver?

Ephesians 1

Because He chose us

Because He chose us to be blameless

Because Christ shed His blood for our forgiveness

Ephesians 2

Because we were lost in sin, now rescued by His grace

Because Christ destroyed the barrier and united us in Him

Because this body is a building – it has to hold together

Ephesians 3

Because we share together in the promise of Christ

Because we are family, under our heavenly Father

Because that's how long, wide and strong God's love is

Chapters 1-3

Chapters 4-6

Establishes faith

Establish practice

Doctrine

Duty

Belief that

Behaves

Righteousness

Justice

Christ's Command

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

That was Christ's prayer:

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

John 17:20-21

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

So what's the problem?

Ask the group this question: When I lack unity, or don't want to pursue unity – what prompts that?

Have you ever asked yourself: What stumps me? What shuts me down? And why?

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

How do we do that?

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2

Humble

Gentle

Patient

Bearing with one another

What does this look like?

What are the triggers to keep it from happening?

What are the reminders to make these four characteristics a reality?

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!
Psalm 133

Closing Prayer:

Prayer for one another to represent Christ well