

ECUMENICISM AND UNITY

KEEPING THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

- 1 Cor 1:10

1. What is ecumenicism?

- a. It means to be agreed, one – it is displayed in its extreme as Universalism.
- b. It is the spirit of a doctrinal unity/fellowship with people of differing doctrinal beliefs.
- c. "Essentials unity, non-essentials liberty, in all things love." "Can't we all get along?"
- d. Key verses for unity – 1 Cor 1:10; Eph 4:2-3
 - i. Love and belief – 1 John 1:7, 2:8-10, 3:23,
 - ii. One accord – Acts 1:14, 2:1, 2:46, 4:24, 5:12
 - iii. Like-mindedness – Phil 2:1-2

2. What is the unity of the Spirit?

- a. Unity – *def.* Agreement, uniformity, unity of doctrine.
- b. Divisions are caused contrary to the doctrine - Romans 16:17-18,.. in all else liberty
- c. We are all part of the same body- Gal 3:28, Eph 1:10 – *are you in it?*
- d. The body of Christ is not divided - 1 Cor 12:12, Rom 12:5 – *it is not a building*.
- e. We are told to have the same mind - Romans 15:4-5, Phil 1:27 – *can we agree?*
- f. The unity comes from the fellowship of the mystery - Eph 1:13, Eph 2:14, 3:9, 6:15
 - i. Who should we follow? 1 Cor 1:10-14
 - ii. Paul's apostleship – 1 Cor 3:10, 4:16, 11:1; Rom 11:13
- g. Keep it in the bond of peace – We must be apt to teach – 2 Tim 2:24-25
 - i. Paul disputed in the synagogues – Acts 17:17

3. How to keep the unity

- a. Two ways to have unity: 1) compromise; 2) evangelize; otherwise...leave-Acts 17:33
- b. Hold fast the form of sound words – 2 Tim 1:13; Titus 1:9
- c. Keeping the unity of the Spirit- reaching perfection - 2 Tim 3:16-17
 - i. Teach sound doctrine; Reprove sin; correct errors; instruct in righteousness
 - ii. This is called edification: we do it in love Eph 4:15
- d. Destroying the unity of the Spirit and damaging the body
 - i. Compromise doctrine; consent to sin; ignore the error; instruct in worldliness
- e. Rightly dividing from people – if ...
 - i. Preach another gospel - Gal 1:7-9 ... *works based?*
 - ii. Preach another Jesus – 2 Cor 11:3-4 ... *according to the flesh?*
 - iii. If they remain ignorant – Titus 3:10, 1 Cor 14:37-38 ... *Pauline?*
 - iv. Phil 3:16-18 - Paul is weeping (his sincere love) but he calls them enemies