

## **BUILDING UNITY**

### **Ephesians 4:1-6**

There are an infinite number of issues that can divide us – doctrinal beliefs, worship style, Bible translation, ethnicity, language, culture, age, gender, income, along with a long list of personal preferences. The Holy Spirit’s work is to unite us in Christ, but we are commanded to diligently maintain that unity in the bond of peace. Unity is like a fire - it dies out if it’s left unattended. This means that we must work for peace in order to continually build unity, as Paul also encouraged the Romans to “pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another” (14:19). Does this describe your actions and attitudes within the church? “Pursue” is a term of action. Are you actively pursuing peace with others by building them up? You cannot do this without actively serving. Laying low and staying out of everyone’s way does nothing to build up the body. Inactivity and apathy lead to atrophy and decline. We are to build unity within the church body through our attitudes and actions of humility, gentleness, and loving patience toward one another. What can you do right now that would help preserve the unity of Macedonia Baptist Church? Who can you build up and encourage today?