

## Going Deeper Questions

# What God Has Joined Together, Let No One Put Asunder

Ephesians 4:1-6

March 7, 2010

1. (Icebreaker) Jeremy started out mentioning weddings. If you are married, share a story or two about your wedding day. If you are not married, share a story or two about weddings you have witnessed – funny, memorable, impacting experiences.
2. In Ephesians 4:1-2 Paul gave instructions for our heart, or our attitude toward each other. What does it take to actually live this out (as opposed to *acting* this out)? Paul wrote this because, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he knew this would be a challenge. Has it been a challenge for you to have your heart beat like verse 2 says it should?
3. The title of sermon is the summary of the calling (cf. Ephesians 4:3). As Jeremy mentioned the question that came up in the Antioch class, ‘Is it truly possible in this day and age?’ Why do we question if it is possible?
  - a. How have you seen “the unity of the Spirit” destroyed in some way? If it has been damaged, what role can you play to restore it?
  - b. Where does this calling rank in your life: is it higher than your job, hobbies, family (and what reveals the value you place on it)?
  - c. Jeremy shared about a fire that he called the fire department for when he was younger. When disunity is happening, and we see it, what is our tendency: do we treat it like a fire that needs to be put out, or do we ignore it thinking it will burn itself out on its own? Do you know of any disunity? What role do you think you need to play to, in a sense, call 911?
4. Remind yourselves what word Paul wrote over and over again in Ephesians 4:4-6. Share with each other what “one-ness” ought to look like today. How do we have that “one-ness” without becoming too enmeshed in each other’s lives (i.e., how do we practice unity without being drained by it)?
5. When Paul wrote “one baptism” in verse 5, Jeremy mentioned that he was probably referring to water baptism. Here are some truths about baptism:
  - a. Baptism is the believer’s contractual agreement which indicates a public commitment to a right relationship with Jesus and His truth—the Bible, and a commitment to and with His local church.
  - b. In the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Christian is identified and united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5) and is thus joined to the body of Christ, the church (1 Corinthians 12:13). We are therefore identified with the work of Christ as partakers of His resurrection life and with the person of Christ as members of His Body (Romans 6:4; 1 Corinthians 12:27).
  - c. Therefore, by use of a common terminology for both the Spirit (real baptism) and water (ritual baptism), the word “baptism” (as it is used in the Bible) seems to correlate the two intentionally. Water baptism cannot be understood apart from the baptism of the Holy Spirit
  - d. All this to ask the question: Have you been baptized? Why or why not? Is baptism an essential piece of preserving the unity of the Spirit?