



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC One United Church

SPEAKER

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THEME The Glorious Church

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In this final installation of the series about *The Glorious Church*, DSP Seng Lee encourages the church to unite in one spirit as it is God's call in the anchor verse from John 17:20-22. The unity within a church is not meant to be self-serving. The unity within a glorious one is meant to be soul-saving. Jesus has given His glory to the Church. As such, a united church reflects the glory of God.

UNITY IS IN THE HEART OF GOD FOR HIS CHURCH

1. GOD'S CALL

Ephesians 4:1-3 "Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

God calls us to unity by walking in humility (thinking of ourselves less as opposed to being prideful), gentleness (part of the fruit of the Spirit expressed in one's tone and mannerism) and patience (part of the fruit of the Spirit demonstrated in one's ability to endure and tolerate). Christians are not to make unity but to keep or guard what God had already made by keeping this unity through the "bond of peace" (Eph 2:15-16). How then can we keep this unity? Firstly, we need to recognise that we are all different but should not let these differences divide us. Secondly, we should raise our genuine concerns and doubts through the right channels in order to not stumble others. Lastly, we should preserve the unity of the Spirit by walking in humility, gentleness and patience.

2. GOD'S CONCERN

Ephesians 4:4-6 "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all."

God is very concerned for unity. As one body, our unity is based on our identity in Christ. By giving us the Holy Spirit, we are identified as His own. Our hope cannot just be for this life on Earth but must be for beyond this life. This hope that ties us together is the second coming of Christ. Jesus must be our *one* and *only* Lord if we want to live victoriously. We are not united with anyone who does not believe in Jesus; one oneness is tied to our oneness with Christ. Our unity is dependent on our faith in God instead of our knowledge about Him. The one baptism we have received is our immersion in Jesus, His death and resurrection. Our Father God is only father to those who receive

Christ as Lord. We are one because we share the same father. Biblical unity is only possible with God and He wants us to be one. His concern must be our concern if we love Him and because we love Him, we must be united as one. Towards the end-times, people will promote divisions. It is all the more important for us to preserve our unity by being one in Christ. We can do this by intentionally blessing those who do not share the same belief as us, being kind to everybody and growing in the 7 “one”s listed in Ephesians 4:4-6.

3. GOD’S COMPLETION

God wants to complete the unity so that the Church can be operational and the glorious Church that reflects Jesus. He therefore blessed us with different spiritual gifts to build up the Church. We need the ministry of the Holy Spirit as well to build up this unity. How then can we experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit? Firstly, we should desire earnestly the spiritual gifts; ask God for them! Secondly, as we grow in our spiritual gifts, we must have discernment. Lastly, submit to leadership. Our spiritual leaders help to equip us to become contributing members of the body of Christ which will then bring about our unity in the Spirit. This unity in the Spirit will be our declaration to the lost world that Jesus is alive.

CONCLUSION

We need unity as one united church because God has called us to unity and it our duty. God is very concerned for unity and it must be our desire too. God wants to complete the unity and it has to be our declaration to the lost world that Jesus is alive. Our unity is not meant to be inward and self-serving. Rather, it must point others to Christ. When the Church comes together in unity, the Lord will continue to add to its number day by day those who are being saved (Acts 2:46).

QUESTIONS

1. List the three virtues in Eph 4:2. Share how you have sought to walk in a manner worthy of your calling over the past week by demonstrating any of these virtues.

2. Recall and reflect on the meaning of the seven 'one's in Ephesians 4:4-6. Are there areas where you are challenged to work on to unite in Christ? Share on steps you will take to guard the unity of your cell-group and BBTC.

3. Each one of us has been given a gift according to the measure of Christ's gift (Eph 4:7-11). What is one spiritual gift that you have been graciously gifted with? How may you use this gift to glorify God and build the unity of the Church?