



The CALL to
UNITY



Key Scripture:

Ephesians 4:3 (NKJV) Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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



THE CALL TO UNITY

- 1.** What is the unity of the Spirit?
- 2.** Why must we keep this unity?
- 3.** How do we endeavour to keep it?
- 4.** What is the bond of peace?



THE CALL TO UNITY

1. What is the unity of the Spirit?

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1. What is the unity of the Spirit?

A. This unity **belongs** to the **Holy Spirit**.
It is **created** by the Holy Spirit and not people.

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

↓
Greek: *tēn henotēta tou Pneumatos*

Unity in the Spirit (a common but **different** idea)

This is unity that happens as believers **walk** and are **led by the Spirit**
e.g. **worship** in (the) spirit; **pray** in the Spirit, etc.



A. This unity **belongs** to the **Holy Spirit**.
It is **created** by the Holy Spirit and not people.

B. This unity is **given to the body of Christ**.

1 Corinthians 12:13 “we were all baptised into **one body**
by one Spirit”
Nicodemus



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- B. This unity is **given to the body of Christ**.

C. This unity is rooted in our **shared life and identity in Christ**.

Ephesians 2:18 For **through Him (Lord Jesus)** we both have access by one **Spirit** to **the Father**.

Ephesians 4:4-6

4 There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; **5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;** **6 one God and Father** of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.



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B. This unity is **given to the body of Christ**.

C. This unity is rooted in our **shared life and identity in Christ**.

D. This unity is **not uniformity**. It is **spiritual oneness**.
It is **not** sameness of personality, preference, or gifting.

Ephesians 4:7, 11-12

7 But **to each** one of us **grace was given** according to the measure of Christ's gift.

11 And **He Himself gave** some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors** and **teachers**, **12** for the **equipping of the saints for the work of ministry**, for the **edifying of the body of Christ**.



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- A **choir** sings different parts
- A **body** has many members
- A **church** has diverse people



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- D.** This unity is **not uniformity**. It is **spiritual oneness**.
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E. This unity must be **kept** by us.

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



Preserve → Maintain → Nurture
→ Protect, Practise, Demonstrate, Live Out





THE CALL TO UNITY

2. **Why must we keep this unity?**

THE CALL TO UNITY

2. Why must we keep this unity?

A. Unity is **fundamental** because it:

(1) Strengthens the mission

- ✓ Aligns everyone toward one purpose
- ✓ Multiplies collective strength
- ✓ Accelerates decision-making and execution -Sanctuary

(2) Builds a healthy community

- ✓ Reduces internal conflict & friction
- ✓ Builds trust and morale
- ✓ Attracts the right people and strengthen culture

(3) Sustains the work

- ✓ Enables the organisation to withstand crisis
- ✓ Reflects strong leadership
- ✓ Protects and preserves what God has built

**Without unity,
no organisation can stand
With unity,
any organisation can thrive**



A. Unity is **fundamental**.

B. Unity reflects the **heart** and **work of Christ**.

- For **He Himself is our peace** (*Ephesians 2:14*)
- Christ **gave** Himself for **the church** (*Ephesians 5:25*)





Video

LoveSG 2026 Highlights

Video: LoveSG 2026 Highlights



A. Unity is **fundamental**.

B. Unity reflects the **heart** and **work of Christ**.

- The cross **reconciled** us **to God** and **to one another**
- We belong to the **same Family!**

Ephesians 4:4-6

4 There is **one body** and **one Spirit** ... **one hope** ... **5 one Lord, one faith,**
one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all ...



A. Unity is **fundamental**.

B. Unity reflects the **heart** and **work of Christ**.

C. Our **fallen human nature** will cause **conflicts**.

- Divisions and contentions (*1 Corinthians 1:10-11*)
- Sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas (*Acts 15:39*)
- Euodia and Syntyche (*Philippians 4:2*)
- Paul rebuked Peter (*Galatians 2:11*)
- Jerusalem Council (*Acts 15*)



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Common sources of conflict include:

Carnality

Poor communication

Unclear goals

Limited capacities

Power and control issues

Inability to navigate
to change

Personality
differences

No spiritual
leadership

Serving outside one's calling,
gifting or portion

Personal
baggage

Spiritual
warfare



A. Unity is **fundamental**.

B. Unity reflects the **heart** and **work of Christ**.

C. Our **fallen human nature** will cause **conflicts**.

D. Unity is essential for **spiritual growth and maturity**.

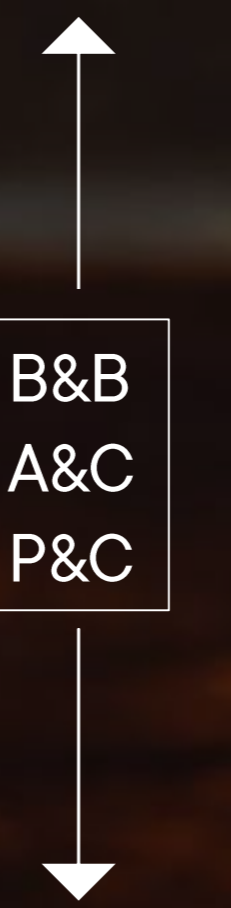
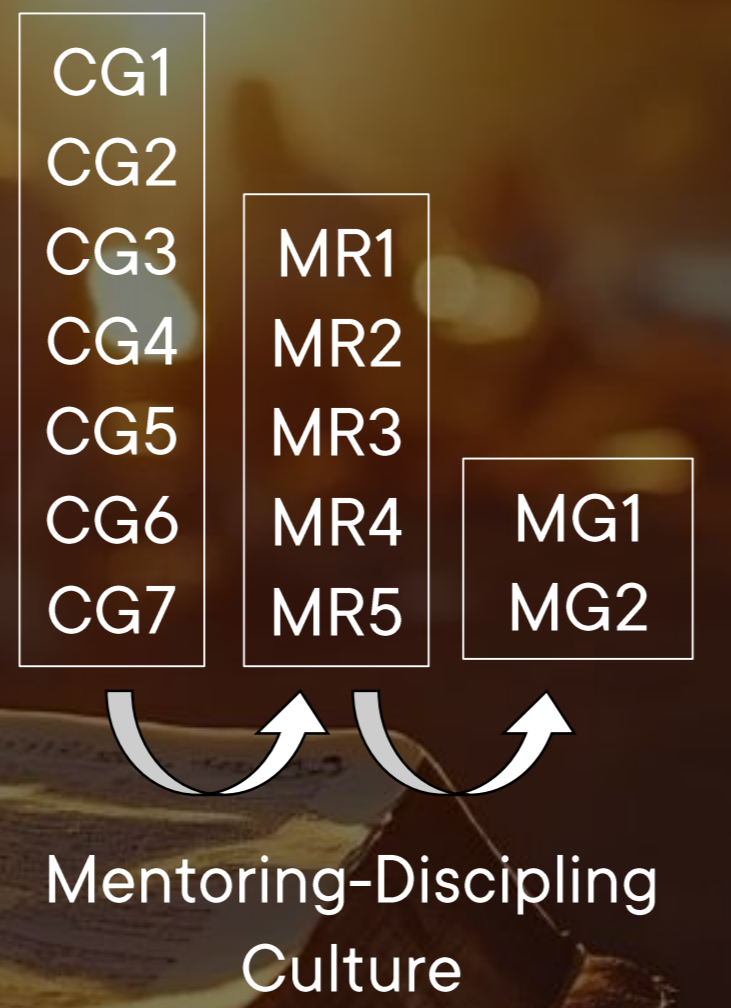
- Until we all reach **unity in the faith** (*Ephesians 4:13*)

- The **body grows** when **every part works together** (*Ephesians 4:15-16*)



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BBTC Relational Covering Structure



A. Unity is **fundamental**.

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C. Our **fallen human nature** will cause **conflicts**.

D. Unity is essential for **spiritual growth and maturity**.

E. Unity is **our witness to the world**.

- **Love and unity** are marks of true disciples

John 13:34-35

34 A **new commandment** I give to you, that you **love one another** ...

35 **By this all will know that you are My disciples**, if you have **love for one another.**”

A fractured mirror distorts reflection

Unity reflects Christ clearly



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D. Unity is essential for **spiritual growth and maturity**.

E. Unity is **our witness to the world**.

- The church **displays** God's wisdom to the spirit world

Ephesians 3:10 to the intent that now the **manifold wisdom of God** might be **made known by the church** to the **principalities and powers in the heavenly places**,





THE CALL TO UNITY

3. How do we endeavour to keep it?



3. How do we endeavour to keep it?

- Make every effort
- Because it is **of the Holy Spirit**, it requires believers to be **spiritual** →

WHY?

Galatians 5:17 For **the flesh lusts against the Spirit**, and **the Spirit against the flesh**; and these are **contrary** to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Eklou
VCF-WNee-S-Man

A white dove is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, positioned above an open Bible. The Bible is open to a page with text, and the entire scene is set against a dark background with a dense field of golden, sparkling particles, creating a luminous and ethereal atmosphere. The dove's feet are visible, and it appears to be moving towards the right side of the frame.

3. How do we endeavour to keep it?

- This unity requires believers to be **spiritual**.
- **This is the opposite of:**
 - living carnally
 - living according to the world
 - remaining spiritual infants, still drinking milk
 - living according to the flesh

1Cor3:1-5: 95%;
Church Minus Spirituality = Club
We can only give of what we have!
7Anointed

THE CALL TO UNITY

3. How do we endeavour to keep it?

A. Recognise, accept and acknowledge our oneness as a family of God.

Ephesians 4:4-6

4 There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; **5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;** **6 one God and Father** of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.



A. Recognise, accept and acknowledge our oneness as a family of God.

B. Walk in Christlike character—Four specific attitudes:
(Ephesians 4:2)

- **Lowliness** (humility)
- **Gentleness**
- **Longsuffering** (patience)
- **Bearing with one another in love**



A. Recognise, accept and acknowledge our oneness as a family of God.

B. Walk in Christlike character—Four specific attitudes:

Ephesians 4:2 Be **completely humble** and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Lowliness-Humility

- not insisting on being right or only my own way
- valuing others above self

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through **selfish ambition** or **conceit**, but in **lowliness of mind** let each **esteem others better than himself**.



A. Recognise, accept and acknowledge our oneness as a family of God.

B. Walk in Christlike character—Four specific attitudes:

Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and **gentle**; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Gentle

- strength under control
- speaking truth with grace

Proverbs 15:1

A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.



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B. Walk in Christlike character—Four specific attitudes:

Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; **be patient,** bearing with one another in love.

Patience-Longsuffering

- giving people space to grow
- allowing time for change

Proverbs 19:11

The **discretion** of a man makes him **slow to anger,** And his glory is to **overlook a transgression.**



A. Recognise, accept and acknowledge our oneness as a family of God.

B. Walk in Christlike character—Four specific attitudes:

Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.



1 Corinthians 13:7 (love) bears all things.

Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another ...

Bearing with love

- like **oil** in a machine: these attitudes **reduce friction**
- **Amos 3:3:** walk together in **agreement** - all human r/s
- **Die to self life**



A. Recognise, accept and acknowledge our oneness as a family of God.

B. Walk in Christlike character—Four specific attitudes.

C. Choose love of God over personal preference.

- Speaking the truth in love (*Ephesians 4:15*)
- Forgiving quickly (*Ephesians 4:32*)
- Refusing gossip and bitterness (*Ephesians 4:29-31*)
- Addressing conflict biblically (*Matthew 18:15*)
- Appreciate and speak well of each other
- Affirm and support each other to succeed



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Colossians 3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Win the War!

Choose your battles to fight!



- A. **Recognise, accept and acknowledge** our oneness as a family of God.
- B. Walk in **Christlike character—Four specific attitudes.**
- C. Choose **love of God** over personal preference.

D. Guard unity against spiritual **enemies.**

- Do not give the devil a foothold (*Ephesians 4:26-27*)
- Our struggle is not against flesh and blood (*Ephesians 6:12*)

Disunity often begins with:

- offence
- unresolved anger
- miscommunication

Unity is:

- spiritual warfare
- Joshua 5 Encounter
- Pray - authority



BOOK FOUR
Psalms 90-106
Psalm 90

Psalm 91
The Eternity of God, and Man's
A Prayer of Moses the man of God

HE who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Him I will trust."

Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and "buckler."

You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

3. How do we endeavour to keep it?

- Because it is **of the Holy Spirit**, it requires believers to be **spiritual**



Psalm 133

1 Behold, how **good** and how **pleasant** it is **for brethren to dwell together in unity!**

2 It is **like** the precious **oil** upon the head, **running down** on the beard, the beard of **Aaron, running down** on the edge of his garments.

3 It is **like** the **dew** of Hermon, **descending upon the mountains of Zion**; for there **the Lord commanded the blessing—Life forevermore.**

The Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:16, 18, 25 - walk, live + 2 Corinthians 3:6

Ephesians 5:9 - goodness, righteousness and truth

The Living Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17
James 3:17 - wisdom from God to discern, not judge

- A. **Recognise, accept and acknowledge** our oneness as a family of God.
- B. Walk in **Christlike character—Four specific attitudes.**
- C. Choose **love of God** over personal preference.
- D. **Guard** unity against spiritual **enemies.**



THE CALL TO UNITY

4. What is the bond of peace?



A. Peace is the **glue-the binding agent** of unity.

- through the bond of peace (*Ephesians 4:3*)
- Christ Himself is our peace (*Ephesians 2:14*)

Peace is **NOT** the absence of conflict

Peace is the **Presence of Christ** ruling our hearts

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ **rule** in your hearts.

THE CALL TO UNITY

4. **What is the bond of peace?**



A. Peace is the **glue-the binding agent** of unity.

- Like **mortar/cement** between bricks.
Without it, the wall collapses
- Like firewood, which burns brightest
when kept **together**
- Like a **belt**, which holds the armour together
- **Essentials:** Unity
- **Non-essentials:** Liberty



B. Peace must be **pursued and protected**.

- As for as it depends on you, **live at peace** with all
(Romans 12:18)
- **Pursue peace** with all *(Hebrews 12:14)*
- Peace is not passive *(A&C; P&C)*
- It must be **pursued, protected** and **practised**

Otherwise:

- ✓ fragmented relationships
- ✓ failed mission
- ✓ fractured church

Relationship takes times, effort, intentionality
to build and maintain

A. Peace is the **glue-the binding agent** of unity.



2 Greek Words in English for Will of God in the Bible:

- **Boulema:** God's unchangeable, sovereign purpose that always comes to pass
- **Thelema:** God's desire revealed in Scripture via moral instructions and commands but depends on our choice to obey or not

A. Peace is the **glue-the binding agent** of unity.

B. Peace must be **pursued and protected.**



- **Unity of the Spirit** reflects God's **Boulema**: The Spirit has **already** made believers one.
- Believers are called to **maintain that unity** through humility, patience, & love—this is God's **Thelema**.

So:

Unity is **decreed** by **God (Boulema)**, but maintained through our **obedience (Thelema)**.

God's Thelema operates within **God's Boulema**, never outside it.

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BOTTOM-LINE

John 17:21 that they may all be one as You, Father, are in Me, and I in you.

- The Father, Son, and Spirit are not united because they agree after a discussion or vote or negotiation.
- They are united because they **share one essence—shared life!**



This unity is eternal:

- **Willed by the Father** (βούλημα - Boulema)
- **Prayed for by the Son**
- **Effected by the Spirit**
- **Lived out through obedient believers**
(θέλημα - Thelēma)

BOTTOM-LINE

John 17:21 that they may all be one as You, Father, are in Me, and I in you.

BOTTOM-LINE

- The cross **reconciled** us **to God** and **to one another**
- We belong to the **same Family!**

Ephesians 4:4-6

Ian's Prayer +P-Senang-JWong's PrisonRev

Birth = Oneness: cannot be undone

Harmony = Unity: requires effort, forgiveness and love.

Agape love flows through brokenness (*1 Corinthians 13*)

How will you respond?