

**Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> Bible Study Notes**  
**Cedarville United Presbyterian Church Facebook Live**  
**Fruit of the Spirit Series: Peace**  
**Text: Ephesians 4:1-6**

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### **Summer Series: Fruit of the Spirit**

- Love – nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ our Lord. What does it mean to love God, love our neighbor, love our enemy, love ourselves?
- Joy – “rejoice always”; “the joy of the Lord is my strength”
- Sunday – seek peace and pursue it...we need to dig around for it because it doesn't come naturally
- Tonight – how do the fruit of the Spirit work together?

*I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,<sup>3</sup> making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

### **The word “worthy” (*axiōs*) means “equal weight” – calling and conduct in balance**

- Calling refers not only to believers' salvation but also to the church – when Presbyterians are “called” to be pastors, it is not just a personal calling but must be upheld by the body of believers
- A Christian's conduct concerns both personal life and responsibility to other believers – we do not live a “me and Jesus” life as Christians, but belong to the body of Christ

### **Believers' attitudes important – three virtues enhance a believer's walk**

- Humility: Greek culture, humility was a vice.
- Gentle: Opposite of rudeness, and harshness. Having emotions under control. But does not suggest weakness.
  - Moses was known as the meekest of all men (Num. 12:3). Yet he got angry when Israel sinned against God (Ex. 32).
  - Christ was meek and humble in heart (Matt. 11:29). Yet He became angry because some Jews were using the temple as a place for thieves (Matt. 21:12–13).
- Patient: endures to the end even in times of adversity (James 5:10). It is the self-restraint which does not hastily retaliate a wrong (cf. Gal. 5:22; Col. 1:11; 3:12; 2 Tim. 4:2).

### **Having stated these three virtues, Paul then stated how they are to be carried out:**

- Bearing with one another in love and making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
- Keeping the unity that comes from the Holy Spirit, not try to create unity
- Concern for peace will mean that Christians will lovingly tolerate each other, even when they have differences

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

### **What do all the “ones” mean?**

- One body refers to the universal church, all believers (1:23; 2:16; 3:6).
- One Spirit is the Holy Spirit who indwells the church (2:22).
- One hope indicates that all believers have a common hope regarding their future with God
- One Lord refers to Christ, the Head of the church
- One faith = the body of truth believed by Christians
- One baptism = no re-baptism, entrance into the church
- One God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all refers to God the Father and His relationship to all believers.

### **Trinity is an integral part of the list:**

- The one body of believers is vitalized by one *Spirit*
- That body is united to its one *Lord* (Christ) by each member’s one act of faith, and its identity with Him is depicted by one baptism.
- One *God*, the Father, is supreme over all, operative through all, and resides in all.

### **Diversity but unity...**

- Bearing with one another in love
- Being with each other – local and universal church
- Being “for” each other – unity can allow for peace even if we don’t agree on everything
  - Society does not tolerate disagreement well – “you either agree with me or you are wrong”
  - In some cases, there is a right and wrong – racism is wrong, slavery is wrong
  - In some cases, we can agree to disagree and still be in unity – we have diversity within our church when it comes to politics and other controversial subjects
  - Churches in Cedarville disagree on some theological points, but we focus on the essentials (think Apostle’s Creed) – we are in unity while having diversity

### **Questions to Ponder:**

- In what ways do you make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace? In your family? In your church?
- What are some examples of times you have not done this? When have you insisted on conformity to your way rather than tolerating diversity of opinion?