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COMMUNITY **DISCUSSION**  
**gr:ups** **GUIDE**

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**SERMON PASSAGE:** Ephesians 4:1-6

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**REVIEW THE SERMON**

1. Read the prep verse (Psalm 133:1) and the sermon's Bible passage to recall the content
2. Briefly review the sermon outline
  - a. Personal Connection (v. 1)
  - b. Personnel Responsibility (vv. 2-3)
    - i. Application to LHB:
      1. Being present with God's people
      2. Be a gracious communicator
      3. Be a humble listener
      4. Be a willing learner
  - c. Personnel Confession (vv. 4-6)
    - i. Application to LHB:
      1. One Body - The church is diverse in background, preferences, and gifting, but we are one in Christ.
      2. One Spirit - Every believer shares a common origin story. We are beneficiaries of God's grace through work of the Spirit and need it continually to preserve unity.
      3. One Hope - Again we were once a people without hope, but now in Christ we share a common hope.
      4. One Lord - Our allegiance is to the same Master, "Jesus Christ is Lord". We are not our own.
      5. One Faith - We all have obtained the same access to God by faith in Christ.
      6. One Baptism - We share a common experience in that we were baptized into Christ, meaning we are one in Christ.
      7. One God and Father - We have the same Father; those in Christ are family.



## DIGGING DEEPER

### 1. A Common<sup>1</sup> Calling

In v.1 Paul mentions “the calling to which you have been called” and Pastor Eric briefly mentioned this calling being a vital component of our personnel connection. “Calling” and “called” are both churchy language that we use, but sometimes forget what they exactly mean. Let’s examine this calling by looking at how Paul describes it earlier in Ephesians.

- a. We have been called to a common position in Christ where we enjoy a:
  - i. Common spiritual blessing in Christ (Eph 1:3-14)
  - ii. Common transformation in Christ (Eph 2:1-10)
  - iii. Common relationship in Christ (Eph 2:11-22)
- b. We have been called to a common life in Christ:
  - i. A holy and blameless life (Eph 1:7)
  - ii. A life of future inheritance (Eph 1:11, 14)
  - iii. A life of hope (Eph 2:12-13)
  - iv. A life in God’s family (Eph 2:19-22)
- c. We have been called to a common task for Christ:
  - i. To make disciples (Eph 3:7-13, Matt 28:19-20)

### 2. Unity or Untied?

If you knew your death was on the near horizon, what would you be concerned about? Before He was arrested and crucified, Jesus was concerned about the unity of the body! Read part of Jesus’ high priestly prayer, John 17:20-23. Spurgeon preaching on this passage said:

The most tender and touching prayer of the Master contained in this chapter, opens up to us his inmost heart. He was in Gethsemane, and his passion was just commencing; he stood like a victim at the altar, where the wood was already laid in order and the fire was kindled to consume the sacrifice: lifting up his eye to heaven, with true filial love gazing upon his Father’s throne, and resting in bumble confidence upon Heaven’s strength, he looked away for a moment from

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<sup>1</sup> The word “common” has broad meaning. Herein the adjective “common” refers to something pertaining or belonging equally or shared. It does not refer to other nuances of “common,” such as familiar, trite, something of low or inferior quality, or something lacking distinction.

the strife and resistance unto blood which was going on below. He asked for that upon which his heart was most fully set...the Savior should in his last moments not only desire the salvation of all his people, but should plead for the unity of the saved ones, that being saved they might be united. It was not enough that each sheep should be taken from the jaw of the wolf; he would have all the sheep gathered into one-fold under his own care. He was not satisfied that the members of his body should each of them be saved as the result of his death; he must have those members fashioned into a glorious body. Unity lying so very near the Savior's heart at such a time of overwhelming trial must have been held by him to be priceless beyond all price.<sup>2</sup>

Jesus desires believers to preserve unity of the Spirit. The difference between "unity" and "untied" (or disunity) is the position of "i." I can either promote unity at LHB, in my family, and in relationships with believers, or I can promote disunity. Paul urges us to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (v. 3).

- a. What is the peace that Paul refers to? Read Eph 2:14-17 for the answer.
- b. What is at stake if we create disunity?
- c. How do we have unity amid diversity – loving those with whom we have nothing in common but the gospel?
- d. How do we have unity amid a divisive culture?

### 3. Psalm 133

The prep verse was Psalm 133:1. Let's look at the entire psalm – it is only three verses! Vv. 2-3 provide two word pictures that explain how great it is to have unity among believers.

V. 2 compares unity to oil anointing or consecrating the high priest (and recall all believers are royal priests, 1 Peter 2:9) for special service (see Exodus 30:22-33 for context). Unity is thus:

- a. Holy – it is of the Spirit
- b. Diffusive – it flows down over the body of Christ
- c. Consecrated – the church has special use as a unified body to proclaim the gospel and make disciples

V. 3 compares unity to dew of Mt. Hermon (~9,200 ft tall) falling on Mt. Zion (hill on which Jerusalem is built). Unity is thus:

- a. Far reaching
- b. Diffusive

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<sup>2</sup> Charles Haddon Spurgeon, "[Unity in Christ](#)," preached January 7, 1986, Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Volume 12.

V3b. Just as the oil and dew come down from above, so also God's blessings come down from above to believers in unity.

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## PRAYER

1. Pray for unity within Living Hope Bryan and among the four elders. Historically, Satan's *modus operandi* is to destroy churches from within through disunity.
  2. Pray for unity within your family and relationships.
  3. Confess to God your sin that is creating disunity. What does the Spirit need to help you with for you to maintain the bond of peace?
  4. Praise God that He has given us His Spirit that we can be unified in and His grace to foster peace.
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