

The Bond of Peace

April 28, 2019

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

2 with all HUMILITY and GENTLENESS, with PATIENCE, BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER in love,

NASB "...showing tolerance for one another in love..."

NLT "...making allowance for each other's faults because of your love..."

- The proving of my superiority often relies upon exposing the weaknesses and faults of others.
- Many pastors keep their congregations under their control by exposure and shame.

3 EAGER TO MAINTAIN the UNITY OF THE SPIRIT in the BOND OF PEACE.

- The making of a church assembly is the impossible task of uniting as one, people who are flawed and riddled with faults.
- The bond of peace is more important than proving who is right and who is wrong, who is better and who is worse, who is further along and who is falling behind.
- The bond of peace is more important than you exalting and promoting yourself on the failures of others.

Philippians 2:1-3 ESV

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,

2 complete my joy by BEING OF THE SAME MIND, HAVING THE SAME LOVE, BEING IN FULL ACCORD and OF ONE MIND.

3 DO NOTHING from SELFISH AMBITION or CONCEIT, but in HUMILITY COUNT OTHERS MORE SIGNIFICANT than yourselves.

Scripture	Attitude	Action
<p>Ephesians 4:2</p> <p>"...with all humility and gentleness..."</p>	<p><u>HUMILITY</u> (<i>tapeinophrosynē</i>)</p> <p>humbleness of mind, lowliness of mind, a humble opinion of oneself, deep sense of one's littleness</p>	<p><u>GENTLENESS</u> (<i>praÿtēs</i>)</p> <p>mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit, meekness</p>
<p>Philippians 2:3</p> <p>"... do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit..."</p>	<p><u>CONCEIT</u> (<i>kenodoxia</i>)</p> <p>vainglory, empty pride, vain opinion, error</p>	<p><u>SELFISH AMBITION</u> (<i>eritheia</i>)</p> <p>strife, contention, electioneering, to put oneself forward</p>

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV

2 with all HUMILITY and GENTLENESS, with PATIENCE, BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER in love,

- **HUMILITY** - *absence of superiority / a Biblical, experiential and accurate view of oneself*
- **GENTLENESS** - *absence of force, coercion and manipulation of people and situations*
- **PATIENCE, BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER** - *respecting the work of God in other's lives*

Why do we bear with one another in patience?

Philippians 1:6 ESV

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:13 ESV

13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

1 John 5:16-17 ESV

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life--to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

2 Corinthians 1:24 ESV

24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

Matthew 20:25-26 ESV

25 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant.

1 Peter 5:2-3 ESV

2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

- **Different strengths and weaknesses.**

Acts 15:37-39 ESV

37 Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark.

38 But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.

39 And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other.

2 Timothy 4:11 ESV

11 Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

- **Different levels of spiritual maturity.**

Hebrews 5:11-12 ESV

11 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food.

- **Different life experiences.**

1 Corinthians 7:17 ESV

17 Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.

1 Corinthians 7:20 ESV

20 Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called.

- **Different calling and gifts.**

Ephesians 4:11 ESV

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers.

1 Corinthians 12:21 ESV

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

- **Differences in conscience and convictions.**

Romans 14:1-5 ESV

1 As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.

3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.

4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

5 One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

Why is the bond of peace so important?

- **God has chosen to dwell in a living temple made of lively stones, not only in individuals.**

2 Corinthians 6:16 ESV

16 For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Ephesians 2:22 ESV

22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- **It is impossible to know the fullness of Christ outside of His Body.**

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 ESV

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

- **We need the strength, encouragement and accountability of the assembly of Christian brothers and sisters.**

Hebrews 10:24-27 ESV

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Malachi 3:16-17 ESV

16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.

17 They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.

- **What is formed here on earth as a living temple will continue in heaven for all eternity.**

2 Corinthians 1:21 ESV

21 And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ...