

April 1, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

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

As Paul addresses the church in Ephesus, he wants to make sure that they know how incredibly important it is to remain in the spirit of unity. It is very true when it was said, 'united we stand, divided we fall.' Even more so for the body of Christ. We must make sure that we are continuously working together rather than apart. There is a spiritual unity that comes from keeping our eyes on the LORD, rather than ourselves.

Paul says make every effort. In our lingo, we might say 'whatever it takes.' One thing that it does take for sure, is dying to our own desires and being made alive in the Spirit of the LORD. When we abide in Him and in His presence, we sense the needs and desires to make sure the whole body is working together and not pulling apart. This peace is the 'super glue' of the church. It keeps us united in focus and in encouragement of the Spirit.

I recall as a young boy in church, we would sometimes sing this chorus right before we dismissed: *Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. **Blest Be The Tie That Binds**; John Fawcett (1782)* This is the key for the body of Christ to live together and function together. Let us keep our eyes fixed on the Savior Who is the head of the body, and let us run this race with perseverance.

Dear LORD, to live in unity, we must be willing to sacrifice our own desires and submit ourselves completely to You. Help us to grow daily in our devotion and trust in the Head of the Body, Jesus. We must make every effort to do so. In Jesus Name, Amen