

Unity of the Spirit – One Faith I Cor. 1:10-25

Introduction:

“The ‘one faith’ of Ephesians 4:5 is not merely a reference to the act of believing; it refers to what is believed” (Gospel Advocate, “One Faith” by Phil Sanders, Aug. 02, pg. 17). For this reason, we will be looking at the gospel of Christ to see how it is that “one faith.”

Heb. 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

I. The gospel is that which is united (1:10-16).

- A. The church in Corinth had problems in that some thought that they were better than others based on who preached to them.
 - 1. This kind of thinking was leading to a strong division among themselves.
 - 2. There were strong contentions (arguments) among themselves (1:11).
 - 3. Paul encourages them to “speak the same thing” (1:10).
 - 4. Notice again that the reason for these arguments is because each one thought that he was better than others based on who taught him the gospel of Christ (1:12).
- B. In order to refute this attitude, Paul reminds them that Christ is not divided (1:13).
 - 1. Paul was not crucified for them; neither were they baptized in the name (by the authority of) Paul.
 - 2. In fact, Paul goes on to say that he is glad that he did not baptize more of them than he did because of their division based on who baptized them.
- C. Because the gospel of Christ is united (“one faith”), we should reject all other gospels.
 - 1. Notice what Paul says about the gospel.
 - a. **II Cor. 11:3-4** - But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. {4} For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted-- you may well put up with it!
 - b. **Gal. 1:6-9** - I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, {7} which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. {8} But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. {9} As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

2. Today, there are many who teach things that are contrary to the gospel of Christ.
 - a. **I Tim. 4:1** - Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,
 - b. We should do just as Paul tells us to do and reject these false doctrines.
 - c. In order to discover what that “one faith” is, we must go back to the word of God.

II. The gospel is that good news which is preached (1:17).

- A. Paul was sent by Christ to preach His gospel.
 1. This does not mean that baptism is not important, but it does mean that our purpose is to preach the gospel of Christ.
 2. It was Paul’s purpose, or goal, to preach the gospel of Christ.
 - a. As soon as Paul was converted, he began preaching Christ.
 - b. **Acts 9:20** - Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.
 - c. **Gal. 1:23** - But they were hearing only, “He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy.”
 - d. As we look at the life of Paul throughout the book of Acts, we see how he preached the Christ everywhere he went.
- B. Today, our goal should be to preach the gospel of Christ.
 1. We preach the good news of the cross of Christ.
 - a. We are commanded to preach.
 - 1) **Mk. 16:15** - And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
 - 2) **II Tim. 4:2** - Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
 - b. We fight for this faith.
 - 1) **Jude 1:3** - Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.
 - 2) The way that we “contend...for the faith” is to teach others of it.
 - c. No one can know the gospel of Christ unless they are told of it.
 - 1) **Rom. 10:14-17** - How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? { 15 } And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” { 16 } But they have not all obeyed

the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” {17} So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- 2) It is up to each of us to tell them of this gospel (“one faith”).
2. It is the simple message of “Jesus Christ and Him crucified” that we preach.
 - a. **Acts 8:35** - Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.
 - b. **I Cor. 2:1-5** - And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. {2} For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. {3} I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. {4} And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, {5} that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

III. The gospel is that which has the power to save (**1:18-25**).

- A. Remember that the gospel is all about Christ.
 1. We must go through Christ in order to obtain salvation.
 - a. **Jn. 8:24** - Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.
 - b. **Jn. 14:6** - Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - c. **Acts 4:12** - Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
 2. Salvation comes only through the cross of Christ and His sacrifice for us.
- B. The message of the cross (the gospel) is that which has the power to save.
 1. **Rom. 1:16** - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
 2. It is based upon our obedience to the gospel that we can be saved.

Conclusion:

We must continue to be a part of the “one faith” of **Eph. 4:5**. In order to be a part of that faith, we must obey the word of God.

Lk. 6:46-49 - But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say? {47} Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: {48} He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the

rock. {49} But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.