

Spiritual Unity Is Not Automatic

by Theodore Epp

Spiritual unity is not automatic and must be based on the truth of the Scriptures, which tells who Christ is and what we are in Him.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:3

Topics: "Spiritual Unity", "Truth in Unity"

Description

Theodore Epp emphasizes that spiritual unity within the Body of Christ is not automatic and must be rooted in the truth of Scripture. He warns against the dangers of ecumenism that prioritizes unity over doctrinal truth, which can lead to a dilution of the Gospel message. Epp stresses that while organizational unity among believers is acceptable, compromising biblical truths to achieve unity with unbelievers is not. He encourages believers to diligently strive for harmony, as true unity is maintained through fellowship with Christ. The sermon concludes with a reminder of the beauty of unity among brethren as expressed in Psalm 133:1.

Transcript

Ephesians 4:3-7

The unity referred to in Scripture is a spiritual unity of everyone within the Body of Christ; that is, all who have received Him as personal Saviour. This means that our unity must always be based on the truth of the Scriptures, which tell who Christ is and what we are in Him. Any unity that compromises the teaching of the Scriptures regarding Jesus Christ is not a unity that has God's approval. However, the ecumenism of our day seems far more concerned about unity for unity's sake, than it does about adhering to the truth of the Scriptures. In fact, the teaching of the Scriptures is sometimes de-emphasized so much that for the sake of unity some groups do not even have doctrinal statements. Such groups tend to emphasize God's love and the need of working in harmony with those with whom we disagree. It is naive, however, to emphasize love at the expense of truth--to emphasize God's love but not His holy standards and justice. Organizational unity is not necessarily wrong if only believers are involved. However, it is wrong--no matter how good the cause may be--for believers to compromise their message in order to work with unbelievers.

When Paul said we are to be "endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit," the word he used for "endeavouring" was a word that originally meant "to make haste" and then came to mean "to be zealous or eager, to give diligence." Each believer is to give his utmost attention to see that harmony is preserved

within the Body of Christ. It is a spiritual unity, or oneness, that exists among all who know Christ as Saviour, but it can be maintained only as we walk in fellowship with Him.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Ps. 133:1).

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/theodore-epp/spiritual-unity-is-not-automatic/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net