



What is the one thing you can't take away from Christianity and still have Christianity? Strip away the labels, the factions, the loyalty tests — what's left? Ephesians 4:4-6 provides the answer. Paul is saying: Here is what is already true about you. The question isn't, do we agree on everything? The question is, do we share the one thing? And if the answer is yes, then we're already one. The only question left is whether we'll live like it.

I. The Ones We Didn't Build

A. Ephesians 4:4-6: *There is _____ and one Spirit—just as you were called to _____ at your calling – one Lord, one faith, _____, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

1. Each of the seven ones is a declaration. Present tense. A description of what already exists.
2. Before any of us existed, **God established the oneness.**
 - a) i.e., a people who have responded to the gospel, who have been buried in baptism, who have the Spirit living in them.

B. It is about how we treat each other.

1. If unity is something given, ... we don't get to decide who's in. God already did.
 - a) Romans 8:30: *And those he predestined, he also _____; and those he called, he also _____;* and those he justified, he also _____.
2. The question isn't how do we become one? We are one.

II. What we Keep Doing with the Ones

A. Romans 14:1: *Welcome anyone who is weak in faith, but _____ about disputed matters.*

B. Romans 14:4: *Who are you to judge another's household servant? Before his own Lord he stands or falls. And he will stand, because _____ is able to make him stand.*

1. When opinion and speculation become tests of fellowship, it always causes division.
2. Galatians 5:14: *But if you bite and devour one another, watch out, or you will be _____ by one another.*

C. Ephesians 4:3: *making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

1. If we ignore this and build walls instead... we are not protecting the faith ... **we are vandalizing something God built.**
2. The one body doesn't need us to defend it by dividing it, it needs us to inhabit it.

III. One Faith Means Something

A. The _____ - of Ephesians 4:5 is not a blank check.

1. It's not believe whatever you want and call it Christianity.
2. It centers on Christ. The cross, the resurrection, and the Lordship of Jesus are not negotiable. Baptism into His death and resurrection are not negotiable.
 - a) *The center is narrow enough to be meaningful and wide enough to be generous.*
 - b) The faith that centers on Christ is enough to hold us together.

B. The question was never *do we agree on everything?* The question has always been, *do we share the one thing?* One Lord. One faith. One baptism. One God and Father of all.

IV. As We Close...

- A. Seven ones. Not seven goals. Not seven ideals we're still working toward.
- B. Seven declarations about what is already true of every person in this room who belongs to Christ.
- C. Will we live like it? Will we close the gap? We unite on one faith — not one opinion.

Questions

1. Paul describes the seven "ones" as declarations rather than goals. How does it change your thinking about unity to realize it is something God has already given rather than something we have to build?
2. Raccoon John Smith watched brand loyalty masquerade as faithfulness his entire life. In what ways do you see that same tendency show up in the church today?
3. Paul draws a sharp distinction between the one faith that centers on Christ and the opinions we form around it. Where do you find it most difficult to tell the difference between the two?
4. Romans 8:30 reminds us that Christ has already called, justified, and is carrying toward glory the very people we sometimes keep at arm's length — how does that reality challenge the way you treat fellow Christians you disagree with?
5. The sermon closed with a simple challenge — close the gap — so who is someone in your life you've been keeping at a distance, and what would it look like to take one step toward them this week?

Answers

Glorified
Consumed
One body
Called
The Lord
Don't Argue
One Faith
One Hope
One Baptism
Justified