

THE ASCENT

PSALMS 120-134

PART 14
**Stopping
Traffic**




**Psalm
133**

*How good and pleasant it is
when brothers live together in unity!
It is like precious oil poured on the
head, running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron’s beard,
down upon the collar of his robes. It is
as if the dew of Hermon were falling
on Mount Zion. For there the Lord
bestows his blessing, even life
forevermore.*





“Snowflakes are frail...”



our **UNITY** commands
the Enemy's attention



DISUNITY

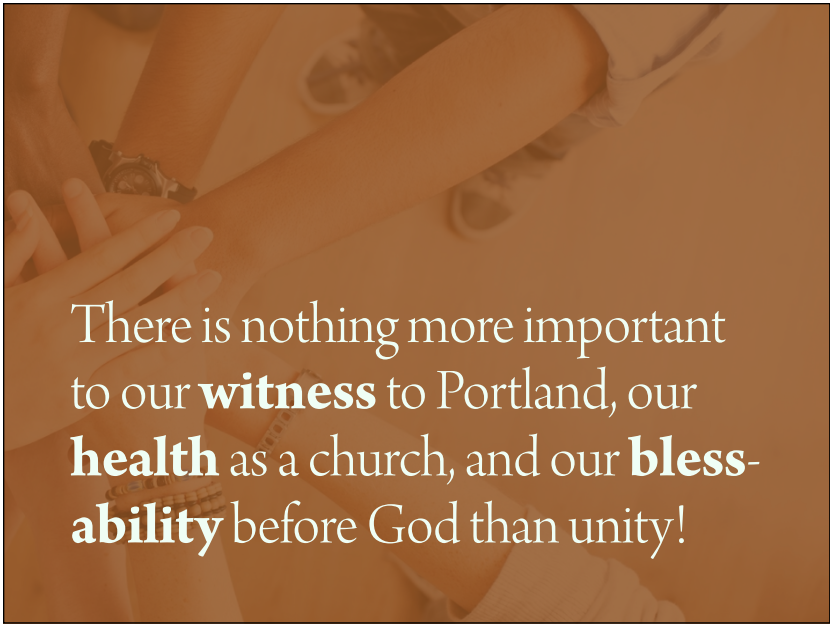
is Satan's stock-in-trade—which is why our unity is so difficult to achieve and maintain.



our **UNITY**
commands the world's
attention

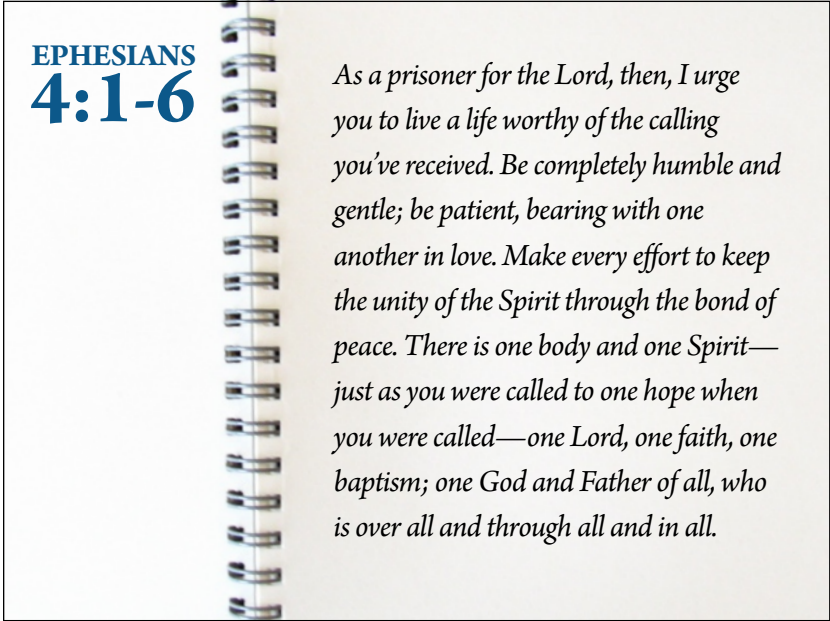
JOHN 17:23

"May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."



There is nothing more important to our **witness** to Portland, our **health** as a church, and our **bliss-ability** before God than unity!

**EPHESIANS
4:1-6**



As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you've received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



First Key

to achieving & maintaining unity

I must recognize

how important unity is to God

“One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father...”

EPHESIANS 4:4-6



UNITY

is the consuming desire
of the Holy Trinity
Father, Son & Holy Spirit

the **Father** desires it.



the Son **died** for it
JESUS



“Father, make your children
one, and keep them one.”

JOHN 17:20-21



the Spirit ***directs*** it

“the unity of the Spirit.”
EPHESIANS 4:3



UNITY

Unity is the collaborative effort, directed by the Spirit, in the diversity of personalities, passions and gifts, which creates the desire, energy and effort to grow us into Christ-likeness.



Second Key

to achieving & maintaining unity

I must give **tireless effort** to spiritual unity.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

EPHESIANS 4:3

Why do we need to zealously *effort* unity?

Because Satan's relentless effort is to thwart it, the number one inclination of our flesh is to drift from it and the gravitational pull of world is away from it.



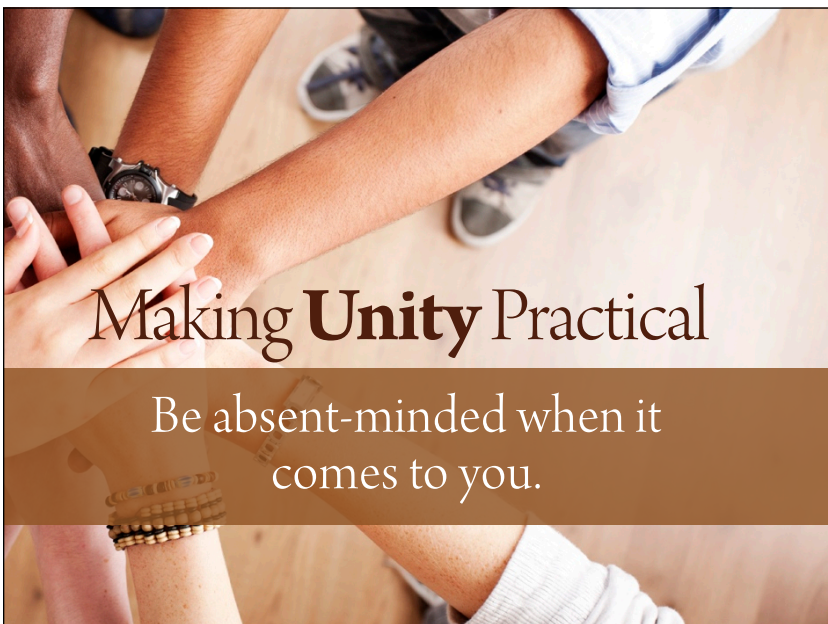
God desires it; so let's *prioritize* it!











Making **Unity** Practical

Be absent-minded when it comes to you.

**EPHESIANS
4:29-32**

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

