

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road

Grand Island, New York

www.bfcgi.org

716-773-3748

THE LORD'S DAY

April 24, 2016 8:30 & 10:15 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude Carol Dammann
Piano Wendy Baldwin
Announcements Ron Mock

MEDITATION

Ephesians 4:13-16 "Unity: Goal of It" (opposite page)

Doxology

Scripture Reading and Prayer

Psalm 123-124

Hymns 211, 214

Pastoral Prayer

Hymns 496, 510

Message How Does the Holy Spirit Help Us? Benefits of Believing

John 14:15-31 Pastor Cal VanderMey

Hymn 430 "There Shall Be Showers of Blessing"

Benediction

THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Youth Group Monday 6:30-8pm. Ages 8 and up

Prayer meeting Monday 7pm at Harbor Light Church

Bible study Tues at **7pm** on Eschatology-Study of End Times- Ernie Beck

No Precept class on Tuesday with Wendy Baldwin at 6:30pm

Men's Bible study Wednesday at 9:30am – Jim O'Rourke

Precept study Thursday at 9:15am. – Revival or Captivity- Margaret Was

Thursday at 10am Ladies Bible Fellowship led by Elsa Peters

Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell leading

Men's Breakfast Saturday at 10

Bible Conference May 1-4 with Dr. Gary Cohen see insert

Thanks for joining us at the BFC

Sunday messages are available online, CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz

The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary

BFC Multipurpose/Utility Building \$31,400 to build-received \$7100

Missions Corner: Looking for "Soft Toothbrushes" to go with the
38,848 tubes of toothpaste! Wow!

See Louise Bellefeuille and Lois Seidel

¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

The goal of unity is to create in the church a full-grown body of Christ working effectively and edifying in love.

The key words in verse 13—unity of the faith. Faith here refers to the body of revealed truth that constitutes our Christian beliefs. National Geographic promotes a unity of the faith—but it is a faith that really means "faith is in the way of unity so just have faith in unity." Paul is asking in verse 13 for growth in the Christian faith by having unity as to the nature and beliefs of the Christian faith! If we don't then we will as verse 14 says be carried about by every wind of doctrine. So why do we not recommend unity as is the emphasis in verse 14 for keeping away false doctrines? The answer is that unity has historically always come at the expense of the truth of the doctrines. There will be unity in heaven where we will find Methodists, Anglicans, Baptists, Brethren, Pentecostals, a sprinkling of Presbyterians, and the other denominations. But all of those groups including the Western Church at Rome and the Greek Church that had been at Constantinople all started out with the truth, but with time many departed and reinterpreted truth often getting away from the Scriptures. As desirable as unity is, we cannot compromise the Word of God itself for the sake of unity. It really is a matter of faith!

Continued on the back

Paul goes on in verse 15 to say that we must speak the truth in love. Evangelism is our great truth and the vehicle that is effective in presenting that is love. A mature believer will present that truth in love, and his evangelistic zeal will be motivated by a love of others. Hudson Taylor told his missionaries that only the love of Christ constrains him to go out and win the lost to faith. Christians are to be obedient and yielded to the Lord's will and subject to His controlling power.

Verse 16 says that the true body of Christ will have all the parts doing their share of the work. There is suffering when one person walks away, or gets tired of their service for the Lord. While some see these verses as a call for ecclesiastical unity at any price, perhaps the unity that Paul most wants to see is the individual believer being unified in his own relationship to the Lord, and the individual church composed of believers walking in with a unified purpose. That is something we should all proclaim and make a priority in our spiritual lives.