



The Power of Unity in the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:4-9, John 16:6-7, Ephesians
3:16-17, Ephesians 4:2-3, Colossians
3:12-14

The Holy Spirit

- Jesus promised the Apostles the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit lives in each one of us, and the Holy Spirit comes with power.
- Because the Holy Spirit lives in us, we have the ability to act, think, speak, and respond in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- We cannot live the Christian life without the power of the Holy Spirit.

Unity in the Church

- The Christian church as a whole, and our church, Grace Fellowship, was formed by the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit has a vested interest in keeping us together.
- It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to remain united, and our unity is critically important.
- A unified church is a threat to Satan's dominion and power.

Fruit of the Spirit

- *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*
- Our ability to live this way and treat other believers in this way, comes from the power of the Holy Spirit.
- These “fruit” are the natural outgrowth of our relationship with God.
- We are to simply obey God and do what He calls us to do, and the Holy Spirit will supply the power.

Forbearance

- Forgiveness is what is needed when someone sins against you.
- Forbearance is what you need when someone is merely displeasing to you.
- Each of us has opinions, habits, or ways of speaking or acting, that some people find off-putting or offensive.
- We are to put up with each other, with the power of the Holy Spirit, because God puts up with us.

What Forgiveness Is Not

- To be in fellowship with other human beings is to be sinned against.
- Five things that forgiveness is not:
 - Forgiveness does not mean the hurt goes away.
 - Forgiveness does not mean that what they did was okay.
 - Forgiveness does not mean that they deserve to be forgiven.
 - Forgiveness does not mean that we must immediately and fully trust people who have sinned against us.
 - Forgiveness does not mean that we accept abuse.

What Forgiveness Is

- There are bad actors out there who will use our desire for Christian unity against us.
- Five things that forgiveness is:
 - Forgiving someone means we do not hold a grudge.
 - Forgiving someone means we do not treat them with anger, or contempt.
 - Forgiving someone means we do not shun them or cut them out of our lives.
 - Forgiving someone means we do not try to get back at them.
 - Forgiving someone means we do not attempt to harm them.

Christ's Forgiveness

- Christ's forgiveness of us is the motivation, and the reason, for us to forgive one another.
- When we consider that God has forgiven all our sins, then we have no reason to refuse to forgive the sins that others may commit against us.
- Forgiving as Christ forgave us means that we forgive in the same way that He forgave us, freely and completely.
- Forgiveness is essential to who we are as followers of Christ.

Conclusion

- Love is the glue that binds together the fruit of the Spirit.
- If we love one another, as we are loved by God, then we will bear with one another.
- Our relationships with one another will be characterized by joy, peace and harmony, as we serve Jesus and worship Him together.