

# A Commitment to Christian Unity

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**Ephesians 4:1-6** As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Our priority ought to be preserving unity. Nevertheless, we cannot create unity. Unity is a function of that which unites.

I. What unites us is sevenfold.

A. One body.

B. One Spirit.

C. One hope.

D. One Lord.

E. One faith.

F. One baptism.

G. One God and Father.

II. Disunity arises from differences over these unities.

A. Every difference involves at least one error, but not every error is equally harmful.

B. Unity is preserved and even enhanced by increased agreement.

III. Two Special Problems.

A. Levels of Fellowship

B. Platform Fellowship.

IV. Our decisions about connections and separations ought to be guided by principle, not personalities.

A. Differences

B. Levels

C. Subjective factors