

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing an important series of studies on Oneness in Christ. Our topic today: The Key to Unity (lessons from Ephesians)

1. Appreciating our blessings in Christ

- a) Ephesians 1:3-7 – What blessings are ours in Christ?
- b) What specific blessings have you experienced since you accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord?
- c) Ephesians 1:10 What does God desire to accomplish for all of us in and through Christ?

2. Breaking down the wall

- a) Ephesians 2:11-18 What is the middle wall of separation that has been broken down?
- b) Ephesians 2:19-22 What are the results of the breaking down of that wall of separation?
- c) What important lessons can we learn from Paul’s description of the “holy temple in the Lord”?

3. Walking in the unity of the Spirit

- a) Ephesians 4:1-3 What is the calling we are called to “walk worthy of”? (see 1 Peter 2:9)
- b) If we are saved by God’s grace through faith, and not based on our own works (Ephesians 2:8-9), why is it important to walk worthy of God’s calling?
- c) Ephesians 4:4-6 Paul mentions the word “one” seven times in these verses. How is unity of the Spirit created and how is unity maintained?

4. Recognizing the role of church leaders

- a) Ephesians 4:11-13 This abbreviated list of spiritual gifts focuses particularly on leadership gifts. How do church leaders assist us on our journey toward greater and greater oneness in Christ?
- b) What is the appropriate response if a church leader is sowing discord rather than endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace?
- c) Why is sowing discord something the Lord hates? (Proverbs 6:19)
- d) How can we assist in nurturing oneness in Christ in our local church?

5. Experiencing unity in interpersonal relationships

- a) Ephesians 5:13-21 What valuable counsel to you see in this passage that will help us to experience unity with others?
- b) Ephesians 5:22-32 How can we experience oneness in Christ in our marriages?
- c) Ephesians 6:1-4 How can we experience oneness in Christ with our children, or young people within our sphere of influence?
- d) Ephesians 6:5-9 Slaves were common in the Roman Empire. Fortunately, slavery has been abolished in most parts of the world. What lessons can we learn from Paul’s counsel that will help us to experience unity in our employer/employee relationships?
- e) Where do you see the greatest need for unity today?

