

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 34 (#912214)
WEEK 7 (912347)
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 34 – Walk Worthy Of The Calling In The Unity Of The Spirit

THURSDAY

OPEN

Have you ever stood at the close of a church service, reached your hand across the aisle because that’s what you’ve been instructed to do from the pulpit? And you look over to see whose hand you are holding and all of a sudden you want to let go of their hand because you don’t like them. O Beloved, don’t you dare let go. We’re gonna talk about those chords that bind us today.

PART ONE

There are chords that cannot be broken and those are the chords that bind us together. And this is what we’re looking at in Ephesians chapter 4 as we get into this practical segment of the book Ephesians chapter 4 where he talks about us walking in a manner worthy of the calling that we have in Christ

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Jesus. Now remember what he tells us is that we are to be diligent, we are to be very careful. We are to exercise everything that’s within us in order to preserve, not to make, but to preserve the unity of the Spirit. So when he talks about us “...preserv[ing] **the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**” (**Ephesians 4:3b**), when you look over and see whose hand your holding and you don’t want to hold that hand because you don’t like that person or because you know that person has said something about you or because they want a certain thing in the church and you don’t want a certain thing in the church and that’s why the pastor has you singing, but you don’t want to be bound together because you are at odds at that person. Listen, don’t you dare let go. Don’t you dare let go because if you let go you know what? The Holy Spirit or God the Father, or God the Son, or the three of them are gonna have to slap your hand. And they’re gonna have to slap your hand because you are not being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit. Now remember what we saw. Ephesians chapter 4, verse 4. This is the unity. This is the seven cords that bind us together and those seven cords are number 1, there is one body. We’ve talked about that in the last program. If you didn’t hear it, you’ve gotta get the program so that you understand it and so that you don’t miss a thing. There is one Spirit and just as you were called in one hope of you’re calling. Now I cut that a little short on the last program but what I want you to see is the hope of our calling is that we are going to be absent from the body and we are going to be present with the Lord. Let’s go back to Romans chapter 8, Romans chapter 8. Now in Romans chapter 8 this is what he says in verse 29, “**For those whom He foreknew, [whom God foreknew] He also predestined....**”(**Romans 8:29a**) It means He marked out beforehand, “...**to become conformed to the image of His Son....**” (**Romans 8:29b**) In other words God wants you to be like Jesus and so He knew you beforehand. He marked you out beforehand for you to be like Jesus. Now he’s going to talk about that later on in Ephesians chapter 4 where he talks about coming to the measure of the stature of the fullness of

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Christ. But he wants you to be like Jesus. All right now, can you imagine Jesus standing in church and dropping one of His members of His body’s hand? No! You can’t imagine that because what does Christ do? Christ doesn’t divide us as a body. He divides us from the world. He separates us from the world because the world is the enemy of God and they have the father, the devil and that’s where they’re living. They’re by nature children of wrath, sons of disobedience as we saw in Ephesians chapter 2. But in the body we are members one of another. We are members of the body and Christ is the head. And so since he’s the head then he wants you and me to become conformed to His image. So watch what he says. That we would **“...become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He, [Jesus,] would be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29c)** In other words He’s the firstborn from the dead. He is the first one, the first God man, the first man to be resurrected from the dead and that’s what’s going to happen with you also. And then it goes on to say this. **“And these whom He predestined...,”** whom He marked out beforehand, **“...He also called....” (Romans 8:30a)** Now what did He call us to? **“...And [those] whom He called, He also justified....” (Romans 8:30b)** It means He declared us righteous. **“...And [those] whom He justified, He...,”** what? **“...Glorified.” (Romans 8:30c)** So that means that someday I have the guarantee and this is the hope of my calling absent from the body, present with the Lord, this mortal. Let’s look at it. 1 Corinthians chapter 15 and it’s the very last verses of this resurrection chapter. But in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 this is what he says in verse 53, **“For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. [So] when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and [when the] mortal will...put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’” (1 Corinthians 15:53-54)** In other words listen, everything about death has been conquered because my body has been resurrected from the dead, the guarantee as we saw in the last

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program is the Holy Spirit and so now this is the hope of my calling. Now what does that mean practically? That means practically. You're sitting there in church. All right, your standing there. It's the end of the service. You reach over. You look at this person. You do not like them. You want to drop their hand and yet you remember the day that they got saved. And you remember that there is proof that they got saved because their life is changed and others around you know it. You just don't like this person. You're at odds with her or you're at odds with him. Okay. So you're holding that person's hand. What you have to realize is that hey, I'm going to live in heaven with this person. And it's not that they're going to live 25,000 clouds down the road and you're gonna live, you know, 15,000 clouds to the left of that main highway, that dust of gold that you're walking on that pure gold that you can see right through. Uh uh. Uh uh. We're all in heaven together. When it says, **"In my...house are many mansions..." (John 14:2a, KJV)** the word literally is apartments because this is what it was like on earth. The father would build a house and the children with their mates would move in and it's kind of like a rectangular place and then they have an open place in the center an atrium but you all are living there together. So you and I need to realize that it is our duty. It is the pleasure of the father that you and I walk in a Christ like way and if it's a Christ like way and He is the prince of peace then I am to preserve the unity of the Spirit. I'm to preserve the things that we have in common. So when I'm holding my enemy's hand, this person I don't like. When I'm holding their hand, listen. That is a symbol that we are one body that there has been in our life not just one body but we have the same Spirit inside of us. There's one Spirit and there is one hope of our calling. We're gonna be together forever and ever. So life down here for the child of God who has eternal life is a growing ground. It is a proving ground. It is a testing ground so that you and I, Precious One, learn how to live down here so that when we see him face to face we are not ashamed. Or let's say we die. We go to heaven and there's Jesus. And we're so happy to

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see Jesus and there's Paul and there's Peter. But there's that woman or that man whose hand you didn't want to hold. Ah! You better get it straightened out now hadn't you? You sure had. Well let's go on to the rest of the sevens, this seven-fold cord that binds. All right, it says, There is **“one Lord...,”** (**Ephesians 4:5a**) There is one Lord and what I want you to understand is that one Lord means there is one God. There is one master. There is one person to whom you and I are accountable and there is no other Lord. There is no other master. There is no other one whom you are to serve. It's so wonderful in this life. You only have to serve one person. You don't have to make everybody else happy on the face of this earth. You have to make Jesus happy because He's your Lord. And if you make Him happy and that is your goal then, Precious One, listen. It will take care of all the other relationships on the face of this earth; difficult relationships, difficult marriages, difficult relationships with children. There is **“one Lord....”** (**Ephesians 4:5a**) So let's look at this. I want you to look at Romans chapter 10, Romans chapter 10. Now there are many scriptures that we could go to and I'm gonna take you to another one but it's gonna be later when we look at one Lord and one God. But in Romans chapter 10 where he's talking about salvation and this is what it says and it's talking about the righteousness of God and how do you get the righteousness of God. How are you declared in right standing with God? How are you justified? Because justified means to be declared righteous. And it says this, **“But what does it say? ‘The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart....’”** (**Romans 10:8a**) In other words the truth is here. It's in your mouth and it's in your heart, okay. And, **“...that is, the word of faith which we are preaching.”** (**Romans 10:8b**) Now a word of faith is not okay, “I've got a word for you. You're gonna go here, you're gonna go there” or whatever. It's not” I've got a word of faith and you're gonna be healed or you've got a pain in your side” and “God's gonna heal it.” That's not the word of faith that he's talking about here. The word of faith is the proclamation of a truth

that you have been told that you have not seen, touched, handled but you know because you have been told that it is true. Remember [faith is the substance of things hoped for. It is the evidence of things not seen.] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 11:1) So a word of faith means I have heard it. I believe it and now I’m going to embrace it. Now how does that happen and what does it have to do with one Lord? Well we’ll see right after this important announcement.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. As we look at those seven things, that seven-fold cord that binds us together remember we left off with one Lord. We left off in Romans chapter 10. Now in Romans chapter 10 he’s talking about “**...the word [that] is near you, in your mouth and in your heart....**” (Romans 10:8b) Now watch how he uses that. He says in verse 9, “**That if you confess with your mouth....**” (Romans 10:9a) Confess means to agree with. It means to say the same thing that God says. “**That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord....**” (Romans 10:9a) If you say, “Okay, He is Lord.” Now when you say Jesus is Lord what you’re saying is, “I’m not. I am not Lord. I am not the boss. I am not the one that is to direct my life.” So when you say that Jesus is Lord, you’re saying, “Hey, He is God and as God because I’m man He has a right to rule my life. I was created.” As Revelation says, [“...for His pleasure.”] (Paraphrased, Revelation 4:11, KJV) And Corinthians says that I want to be pleasing to Him. So he says, “**...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God [has] raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;**” it says, “**for with [a] heart a [man] believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.**” (Romans 10:9-10) So salvation is saying that Jesus is Lord. Salvation is saying that He is God. Salvation is saying that I’m going to honor Him as God. I’m going to honor

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Him as Lord. Now when I got saved I did not actually say the words. But what I said was, “God, You can do anything You want with me. Anything You want with me. If I never see another man as long as I live” because I was an immoral woman. I was a divorcee with two boys. “If you paralyze me from the neck down” which was the worst thing I could think of that could happen to me physically “or whatever you do to my two boys” and that was the worst thing I could think of that would happen to me. That He would do something to my two boys but this was total absolute surrender. Did I know what I know now? No, but I knew that God had a right to rule my life. So there is one Lord and we have to recognize this. And if there’s one Lord and I’m standing there in church and I’m reaching over and holding this person’s hand who is a member of the body, they have the same Lord. We may not agree on something. We may have disagreed and it may not have been pleasant but I am to preserve the unity of the Spirit and know that her Lord is my Lord and if we would both bow the knee and preserve the unity of the Spirit the animosity, the enmity that we have among ourselves would go away. All right now, we’ve gotta move on. So Ephesians chapter 4 it says that there is **“one Lord...,”** and then it says there is **“...one faith...,”** one faith. **(Ephesians 4:5a & b)** Now what is this one faith? Well what I want to do is take you to Matthew chapter 4, Matthew chapter 4 and this **“one faith”** is the word of God. When you and I look at the Bible, we are looking at the sum total of what we are to believe of what God has spoken and given to us and so we are to believe Him. **“...Without faith it’s impossible to please [God].... [Those] “...who come to [Him]...,”** Hebrews 11, **“...must believe that He is...that He is a rewarder of those who [diligently] seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)** In Matthew chapter 4 this is what he says. Jesus is being tempted by the devil and the devil tempts Him to make bread. He says, **“...If You’re the Son of God...,”** verse 3, **“...command that these stones become bread.’ But He answered and said, ‘It is written...” (Matthew 4:3b-4a)** Now with every temptation,

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we’re not going to read it, but with all three temptations Jesus answered “it is written.” Why? Because there’s one faith. He says, “**...Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.**” (Matthew 4:4b) What is this Book? It’s every word “**...that proceeds out of the mouth of God**” and if I am living by that one faith then this becomes the manual by which I live. The symbol of Precept Ministries is a plumb bob. It is a plumb bob because a plumb bob is on a string that shows you what is straight. And so what we want you to do is we want you to know truth. We want you to know what is straight. That’s why we offer you a free study guide. You can download it by going to “preceptsforlife.com,” “preceptsforlife.com” and you can download it. We don’t want you to believe what we believe. We want you to discover truth for yourself and we show you how and that’s what this program is all about. And so he says, [man doesn’t live by bread alone but by every word.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 4:4) In Matthew chapter 5 in the sermon on the mount, Jesus said in verse 17, “**Do not think...I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I didn’t come to abolish but to fulfill.**” Fulfill. He says, “**For truly I say to you...**” and when He says truly He means sure nuf, sure nuf. He says, “**...until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law...**” from the Word of God. And those are those little marks over those Hebrew characters, “**...until all is accomplished.**” (Matthew 5:17-18) So there’s one faith. So you and I in any debate in any situation have recourse to this book which takes us to this one faith and we see what truth is. Now we’re gonna talk about preserving the unity of the Spirit until we come to the unity of the faith. So he’s not saying in preserving the unity of the Spirit that we will all understand everything that the Bible says at that time. He’s saying, “Oh no but we will agree that this is our plumb bob, our plumb line for measuring everything that we believe and every way we behave.” Everything we believe and every way we behave. All right so that’s the one faith. All right now, it says that

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there is one baptism. Now the end of Hebrews talks about the teachings of baptisms. So there are different kinds of baptisms which is washing or immersing but there’s only one that is the common denominator between us. People are divided over what this means. Matthew chapter 28. Some people think it is water baptism and they think it’s from Matthew chapter 28. And in Matthew chapter 28 which is the last chapter of the gospel of Matthew it says in verse 19, **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and [of] the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all [things which] I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”** (Matthew 28:19-20) So this looks very, very good and it could be that this is one baptism that He’s talking about but if it is the one baptism then you have to take Jesus literally. I baptize you. You go and you baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Now one of the things that we see in Ephesians is we see the Spirit mentioned, then the Son mentioned, the Lord and then the Father mentioned. What does all this mean and what are we to do about it? We’re going to talk about it in our next program but I want you to understand and get God’s precepts for life. You’ve got to understand okay, this is the truth; now how do I live? You don’t let go of that person’s hand. You don’t drop it. Rather when you look at them and you go, “Huh!” You resolve it. You preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.