

“jhkjkhkjhkh!”

## 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. Pray for Peru Team: Henry, Geri, Terri.
- 1.2. Picture a **football team** all huddled around their coach before kick off. A great cheer goes up, then **the coach** runs out onto the field & **all the players** stand on the sidelines & cheer him on. He receives the kick...then gets nailed by 11 opposing tacklers!
  - 1.2.1. As foolish as that sounds, that happens when a **church** picks up on the idea that **the Pastors** are the “**paid professionals**” & are the ones to be doing **the work of the ministry!**
  - 1.2.2. Here, Paul clears this up!
- 1.3. Nate shared this morning at our staff devotions, “**The Gospel/Christian life is to be more than a belief but a lifestyle.**”
  - 1.3.1. Christian living it is to be **goal-oriented & dynamic** (not static).
    - 1.3.1.1. **Dynamic** = active & changing.
    - 1.3.1.2. **Static** = not moving or changing, in a fixed position.
- 1.4. **Intro:** His **Amen** led right into a **therefore** as he transitioned from **doctrine** to **application**.
  - 1.4.1. 4:1 is the **pivot point**, as if you were walking on a Teeter-totter just stepping past the fulcrum point.

## 2. **THE UNITY! (1-6)**

- 2.1. **4 VIRTUES THAT DEFINE US!** (1-3)
- 2.2. Paul desires to lay the groundwork of the Jew & Gentile being one.
  - 2.2.1. That foundation must be built on: **Lowliness**(humility; smallness, yet recognizing God’s power & ability working in you); **Gentleness**(meekness, a wild animal tamed); **Longsuffering**(a practical expression of patience & keeping patience until the provocation is past!); & **Love**(this is the background quality of the previous 3).
- 2.3. **Calling** – Peter Marshall in his characteristically trenchant manner describes 20<sup>th</sup> century Christians in these words: “They’re like deep-sea divers encased in suits designed for many fathoms deep, marching bravely forth to pull plugs out of bathtubs”
- 2.4. (3) **Know how 2 porcupines huddle close together?...Very Carefully!**
  - 2.4.1. That image is a lot like the church!
  - 2.4.2. Instead of **majoring in communion**, we’ve gotten mixed-up in **contention**.

2.5. **Back to the Football analogy** - the team breaks out of the huddle. But instead of lining up against the **opposing squad**, they break into groups of two or three, **arguing** with each other. Soon they start shoving, and two of them actually get into a fight. “What’s wrong now?” we ask as one of them walks off the field in disgust. “That bunch of malcontents can’t agree on anything,” he says. “Those two over there are arguing over the **color of the uniforms**. A couple of others are quarreling over the **right way to kneel** in the huddle. Those two guys are arguing because one believes in what he calls ‘**personal**’ football, and the other believes in ‘**social**’ football. They can’t agree whether the **individual** or **the team** is more important. A couple are fighting over whether **women** should be allowed to play. And I’m quitting because **I can pass a lot better** than that other guy, and they **won’t let me be the quarterback.**”

2.6. **7 THINGS THAT UNITE US!** (4-6)

2.7. **7 things that are unified.**

2.7.1. **One Body** – Christ’s body.

2.7.1.1. **All believers are part** of a body of which Christ is the head.

2.7.2. **One Spirit** – the Holy Spirit.

2.7.2.1. He is the same **power & person** at work in all believers.

2.7.3. **One Hope** – Eternal life.

2.7.3.1. All believers have the **same future** & pursue the **same goal**.

2.7.4. **One Lord** – The Triune God.

2.7.4.1. Just as the **spokes** of a **wheel** are held together & arranged around a **common hub**, so all Christians come together around the Lord.

2.7.5. **One Faith** – The true Christian faith.

2.7.5.1. The **common commitment** believers have to **one Lord**.

2.7.6. **One Baptism** – The immersion into the body of Christ.

2.7.6.1. This signals **the beginning** of the Christian life.

2.7.7. **One God & Father of all** – The heavenly Father.

2.7.7.1. The **central item** in the list...the **foundation piece & ultimate basis** for unity!

### 3. **THE UNIFIER! (7-16)**

3.1. The work of **Christ** brings all these things together.

3.2. We move from **unity** of the body, to the **diversity** within the body!

3.3. **HIS GIFTS TO BELIEVERS!** (7-11)

3.4. **When** He gave the gifts? – after the **Ascension!** (7-10)

3.5. (7) Though **united** we are not **uniform**.

3.5.1. The **One God** has given us **many different spiritual gifts**.

3.5.2. Complimenting gifts that work together to **build up** the body of Christ.

3.6. (8-10) He quotes **Ps.68:18** to show that Christ has **ascended** as **conqueror** of sin & death, & from His wealth He has given **gifts** to His people.

- 3.7. **What the Gifts were!** (11)
- 3.7.1. **Apostleship** – a “sent one”; a delegate, envoy, or messenger.
    - 3.7.1.1. The originals witnessed Christ’s resurrection.
  - 3.7.2. **Prophets** – Their words especially important before the NT writings became available. (they foretold, forthtold, convicted, & encouraged)
  - 3.7.3. **Evangelists** – Not like as D.L.Moody once said, “firemen straightening pictures on the wall of a burning house.”
    - 3.7.3.1. **We need to be about saving souls!**
    - 3.7.3.2. These evangelists proclaimed the gospel **outside** the church or **to new regions**. Today we call them missionaries!
  - 3.7.4. **Pastors & Teachers** – Pastor = shepherd.
    - 3.7.4.1. The **image** depicts as a **shepherd** with his flock, being a **spiritual leader** to those committed to his charge.
    - 3.7.4.2. A **teacher** instructs others in the truth.
- 3.8. **HIS GOALS FOR BELIEVERS!** (12-16)
- 3.9. (13) **Mark Twain** said once that the church is a place where a **nice respectable person** stands in front of other **nice, respectable people** and urges them to be **nicer and more respectable**.
- 3.9.1. If that is all the church does, it is leading people down the wrong path!
  - 3.9.2. **Q: What are the churches goals then?**
    - 3.9.2.1. **6 things: That they be Equipped; That they be United; That they have Knowledge; That they be Mature; That they be Measured; That they be Settled!**
- 3.10. **That they be Equipped!** (12)
- 3.11. **Equipping** – (a medical technical term) “The setting of a bone”; “mending nets”.
- 3.12. Explain old versions had a **comma** between “saints” & “for”.
- 3.12.1. The error is a **small one** in grammar, but a **great one** in practical consequences.
  - 3.12.2. For it now appears that the clergy’s main task is **NOT** to do the work of the Church, but to **equip** God’s people to do this work.
- 3.13. **Back to the Football analogy, listen to God’s Game Plan.** - Christ has given the church *apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers* “**to prepare God’s people for works of service.**”
- 3.13.1. **Lay people** are not there simply to **pay pastors and evangelists** to do the Lord’s work. **Rather**, pastors, evangelists, and teachers are to equip the **so-called lay people** to be ministers!
- 3.14. The pattern is that the minister helps the layman to evangelize.
- 3.14.1. He sees his main task as that of:
    - Training the Christian mechanic how to witness in the garage;
    - Showing the Christian student how to have a relevant testimony in

the classroom;

Inspiring the Christian housewife to be a godly influence in her neighborhood.

- 3.15. Seven Laws of the Learner, B. Wilkinson, ch. 6:
1. Equipping is the **responsibility** of the **teacher**.
  2. Equipping occurs best when the teacher assumes the **biblical role**.
  3. Equipping should impact both **character** and **conduct**.
  4. Equipping should focus more intensely on the **most committed**.
  5. Equipping requires **knowledge**, **skill**, and **long-term commitment**.
  6. Equipping has as its **ultimate goal** *independent equippers*.
- 3.16. **That they be United in the faith!** (13a)
- 3.16.1. **Unity** grows out of the **common faith** which **believers share**.
- 3.17. **That they have Knowledge of the Son of God!** (13b)
- 3.17.1. And it's the Son who **knows the Fathers character & brings His presence**, **as no one else can!**
- 3.18.
- 3.19. **That they be a perfect man/Mature!** (13b)
- 3.19.1. **A mature man** – (LKGNT) That which has reached the set goal!
- 3.19.2. **Our goal...Christ likeness!** And to **reflect Him** more fully in our lives!
- 3.19.3. As one said, "Quit threatening to be a Christian!"
- 3.19.4. **Maturity** is contrasted with **instability** of vs.14 (wave tossed; wind blown!)
- 3.20. **That they be Measured!** (13c)
- 3.20.1. This idea of **measure** suggests that the gift is **individually tailored** to each Christian.
- 3.20.2. The **complete person** is one who **measures up** to the pattern of personhood displayed by Jesus!
- 3.21. **That they be Settled!** (14)
- 3.22. (15) **Spiritual birth must** lead to **spiritual growth** as we become more like Jesus Christ.
- 3.22.1. 1 Pet.2:2,3 (NIV) "Like newborn babies, **crave pure spiritual milk**, so that by it you may **grow up** in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."
- 3.23. If we are maturing in Christ, we'll show it by being able to **speak the truth in love**.
- 3.23.1. Satan is a liar & a murderer, & has a difficult time being successful when believers practice **truth & love!**
- 3.24. Calvin Miller states, "**Malicious truth** gloats like a conqueror. **Loving truth** mourns that it must confront and show a brother his error. **Malicious truth** struts at its power. **Loving truth** weeps to find that the correction it inspires may for a while cause great pain.

**Malicious truth** cries ‘Checkmate, you are beaten!’

**Loving truth** whispers, ‘I correct you with the same pain you feel. But when the pain is over, we shall rejoice that honesty and love have been served.’”

- 3.25. (16) **Q: Tell me...what works well with missing parts?**
- 3.25.1. Imagine a car engine? Picture a string of pearls with some missing.
- 3.26. **The Clergy Conspiracy** – The abomination of Clericalism.
- 3.26.1. It’s when the minister says, “You leave the spiritual ministry to me; that’s my job.” And the congregation says, “Yes, that’s right, & so we will”
- 3.26.2. Or the congregation may say to the minister, “We hired you to do the spiritual ministry. Get on with it.” - And the minister says what he never should consent to, “I accept that, and so I will!”
- 3.26.3. We must **challenge that conspiracy** and **decline to be a part of it.**
- 3.26.4. We must **insist** on the principal of **every-member ministry.**
- 3.26.5. **One of our core values is: Inclusion/participation: “Encouraging all believers to discover & use their unique Spirit given gifts.”**
- 3.27. We should aim for what was reflected on a churches **letterhead**. It stated:
- 3.27.1. **1<sup>st</sup> line** - The name of the Church  
**2<sup>nd</sup> line** - “Ministers: the Congregation”  
**3<sup>rd</sup> line** - “Assistant to the Ministers”: the name of the Pastor!
- 3.27.2. That is how it should be in every church!
- 3.28. **Back to the Football analogy** - The team realizes they’ve all got to play, so they’re on the field in a huddle. **They huddle and huddle and huddle.** The referee calls a penalty for **delaying the game** and moves the ball back five yards. Still the team huddles, huddles, and huddles. The referee calls penalty after penalty, until finally the ball is moved all the way back to their own goal line. “Hey coach!” shouts the quarterback to the sidelines. “This is the greatest huddle I’ve ever been in. What a group of guys! We have the best fellowship and some of these guys are amazing students of the play book. Some have memorized over a hundred plays and can analyze them precisely. We learn so much in this huddle!” “But why don’t you get up on the line and play?” “Why should we? **What we want are bigger and better huddles!** Besides, we might get hurt. No one ever got hurt in a huddle!”
- 3.28.1. Caution...regarding the **Holy Huddle!**
- 3.29. Christians should be on the **frontlines** not on the **sidelines!**