



# WILMINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume II, Chapter 5

## May 2022 NEWSLETTER

Let us consider Ephesians 4:3 ***“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”***

Have you heard or thought “I don’t see how anyone can believe that..” “Those people must be blind to think that...” I don’t care if it does split the local church, right is right!...”

But this verse assures us that God prizes unity and its beauty among His people.

***Endeavoring*** – Sounds like work, effort. How much do we endeavor to preserve unity?

Jesus reminded us in Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers”. The effort to keep peace is honored by our Lord.

Ask yourself: “What kind of a peacemaker am I? “ Do I enjoy dissention or work to heal it? Do I contend for minor points, careless about the injury I might cause to a Brother or Sister? Do I get violent over doctrines, a minor change in a service, or even positions in the local body? Then excuse the disunion (discord) I cause on the grounds of being “right”? There are seemingly hostile separations among Christians over minor differences or variances. These differences then become positions to defend. Contention rather than gentle love becomes the hallmark of a church when differences are given priority over the bond of peace.

***Keep the unity of the Spirit.*** We have a great body of agreed truth which binds us and the Seal of the Holy Spirit in our heart. When we have so much in common, it is no wonder God resents disunity in His churches.

Man and Satan blind many when they ignore the agreed truths to fuss over minor points. Who criticizes the painful parts of his own body? If my stomach aches, I don’t criticize it – I try to help it. I don’t scold my finger when it gets burned. There are no doubt times we have hurt God our Father by participating in disruptions.

***Bond of peace*** – think about our great bonds in Christ. When Satan is successful in getting us to express hostile feelings, we do damage and break the bond of peace. And even worse – we could be shamed in “that day” for the dissention we create or encourage; we are accountable to our Lord for every word!

The next time I feel disapproving, resentful, or angry, I know that Satan or my depraved nature is working overtime. With the Lord’s help I can resist the devil and the old nature – pray and concentrate on Preserving the bond of Peace.

Norman Patterson, Adult Sunday School Teacher

### **Upcoming Events:**

May 8 - 9:00 am – Mother’s Day Breakfast provided by men of WBC

May 14 – 1:00 PM – Ladies’ Tea

May 8 & 22 5:30 pm – Youth New Believers’ Discipleship Class

May 15 & 29 5:30 – Children’s Choir Practice