

The Unity of the Faith

January 2nd & 3rd, 2015

Ephesians 4:11-13

“...until we all attain to the unity of the faith...”

Attain: “To reach; to come to or arrive at...”¹

Faith: (Greek - *pistis*) “... ‘firm persuasion,’ a conviction based upon hearing ... is used in the NT always of ‘faith in God or Christ, or things spiritual.’”²

- ❖ Faith toward God is one of the elementary doctrines of Christ.
Hebrews 6:1 “Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,”
- ❖ Faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ.
Romans 10:17 “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ.”
- ❖ Attaining the unity of the faith, therefore, will come as followers of Christ base their convictions on the Word of God!

Faith can be misplaced.

- ❖ Goliath believed that the god of the Philistines was the true God.
1 Samuel 17
- ❖ Sennacherib believed that the god of the Assyrians was the true God.
2 Chronicles 32
- ❖ The 450 prophets believed that Baal was the true God.
1 Kings 18:22
- ❖ The Ephesians believed that the goddess Artemis (Diana) was a true God.
Acts 19:27
- ❖ People today put their faith in man-made religions.
1 John 4:1-3
- ❖ People put their faith in government, leaders, professors, authors, etc.

Faith must be placed on the eternal truth of God’s Word.

- ❖ God is the Creator of all things.
Hebrews 11:1-3
- ❖ God is the Sustainer of all things.
Hebrews 1:3; Acts 17:24-25
- ❖ God is the Reason for all things.
Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 2:10
- ❖ God is our Lawgiver and Judge.
James 4:12; John 3:19,36
- ❖ God the Son, Jesus, is the Only Way to eternal life.
John 14:6
- ❖ God is the Giver and Taker of life.
Psalms 139:16; Job 1:21
- ❖ God created and defines marriage between a man and a woman.
Genesis 2:23-24

- ❖ God is the Giver of wealth and daily provision.
Deuteronomy 8:17-18
- ❖ God requires stewardship of our God-given resources.
Malachi 3:10-12; 2 Corinthians 9:6-14; 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- ❖ God designs the lifestyle that honors and pleases Him!
Ephesians 4:1; 1 Corinthians 6:9-12

**In 2016 we will not compromise our convictions but, by the grace and power of God,
we will move toward a unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God!**

Endnotes:

¹ Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

² Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

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