





used to live.

That's why the first core conviction of our church is to be centered on the gospel. A church without the gospel at the center is like a car without an engine.

It might look pretty on the outside, but it won't go anywhere. And it is only when we get this big picture in place, then we can move to the specific steps of verses 2 to 6.

Now when it comes to church life, How then do we live a life worthy of the calling we have received?

[12:11] That's what Paul now goes on to talk about. And he says here's three things we must do.

Firstly, maintain our spirit-given unity. Look at verse 3.

May every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.

Paul is telling us, Do you know what kind of unity exists between you and your fellow Christians?

It is nothing less than a unity in the spirit.

It is not natural.

Rather, it is supernatural. You see, we all know that sin separates us from God. But did you know that sin also separates us from one another?

[13:25] After all, if we are sinners, that means we are capable of selfish behavior. We are capable of being prejudiced, such that the English service can look down on the Mandarin service, or the Mandarin service can look down on the English service.

And like it or not, on our own, we cannot stop hurting one another.

But what happened when we trusted Christ and received the Spirit?

We have peace with God, yes. Ephesians 2 tells you that.

But did you know we also have peace with our fellow Christians? Ephesians 2 also tells us that.

[14:32] Because those sitting next to you, in front of you, or behind you, are united to you if they are Christians.

Even if they speak a different language to you. And we all are taught to be part of God's people, God's household, God's family.

That is the unity of the Spirit. It describes the bond that already exists between us, not a bond that is hypothetical.

And that is why verse 3 again, God says we are to maintain this spirit unity.

So our job is not to produce this unity like how our government often tries to make us united.

[17:21] Our job is simply to keep this unity.

In fact, did you notice how much stress Hope puts on this? ?

At the beginning of verse 3, he says, make every effort. In other words, it's not something we do occasionally whenever we feel like it.





