

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – September 26, 2021

Theme: The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit Topic: The Holy Spirit unites us

Main Text: Ephesians 4:1-8

Key verse: Ephesians 4:3 – “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: To unite is to bring different groups or things together to become one. It is to link two or more parts to become one; to combine; to join with other people or groups, or to make this happen. The Greek word *henótēs* is what is translated in Ephesians 4:3 as ‘unity.’ It comes from the root word *heis*, which means “one.” – *oneness* (unity), especially the *God-produced unity (oneness)* between believers. God saves us individually, yet those who have been saved form one body – the Body of Christ (the Church). This coming together to form one body is not a small matter, especially because Christ first had to make peace between Jews and Gentiles and united us “*by breaking down the wall of hatred that separated us.*” (Ephesians 2:14 CEV). That is why “*Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.*” (Ephesians 2:18 NLT).

1. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:13-14; Ephesians 2: 14, 18-20; (a) What do they tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church? (b) When you think of the diversity in the Church, how do these verses help you appreciate the unifying work of the Holy Spirit? (c) Can you think of an instance where this diversity among believers was tested, but for the Holy Spirit?**

When individuals or groups are joined together, there is usually an objective. According to Ephesians 2:21, God’s objective for the Church is that believers be “*carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.*” And while it is the Holy Spirit who unites us, He enjoins us to “*make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.*” (Ephesians 4:3). By implication, believers must work together, not to bring about the unity, but to maintain it. However, certain key ingredients are needed to help the Church play her part. So, first, the Holy Spirit gave us apostles, prophets, etc., to equip and build up the Church in the work God has assigned her. These gifts were not given to a select few. Instead, “*a spiritual gift is given to each of us...*” with which to contribute to this pursuit. (1 Corinthians 12:7).

2. **Read Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 12:31; Colossians 3:12–14. (a) What attributes do these passages highlight for the Church? (b) Why are these attributes so crucial to the unity of the Church? (c) Let participants share what they will do in the next one week to exemplify one or more of these attributes and contribute to unity in the Church.**

Another way the Holy Spirit unites us is through the written word of God. In Acts 17:11, we read of the Berean Church who because they searched the Scriptures, were able to respond positively to Paul’s teaching. John 20:31 also assures us that what has been written down is enough for us to place our faith in Jesus Christ. According to Jesus Christ, even the Old Testament has enough to say about Him (John 5:39, 46-47). The written word of God, though spanning several centuries and involving about 40 human authors, was inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). Therefore, Apostle Paul repeatedly encouraged believers in his various epistles to stick to what they had been taught by him and his other companions. He even went a step further to warn against exceeding what is written. (1 Corinthians 4:6). So, the written word of God is the doctrinal foundation for the unity of the Church. We can be sure that the Holy Spirit who indwells the believer, will never lead us to doubt, criticize, go beyond, or fall short of biblical teachings. The Holy Spirit works with the Bible to make it the living word of God, which can transform our lives (John 17:17; 1 Corinthians 3:18). In summary, the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Trinity, works in unity with God the Father, God the Son in Creation and in our salvation. He awakens us from spiritual death and leads us to Christ. He sanctifies us, conforming us to be more like Jesus. He empowers us for ministry. It is He who produced the written word of God as our safe guide and only standard for the Christian life and doctrine. He unites the Church based on God’s word.

3. **(a) What doctrinal truths does Ephesians 4:4-6 draw our attention to? (b) Why are these doctrines crucial to the unity of the Church? (c) How does the Holy Spirit use these doctrines to unite us?**

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for Your Holy Spirit who unites us in Christ and as a Church. Help each of us to make every effort to play our part for the sustenance of that unity in the Spirit so that Christ would be glorified in our midst. In Jesus’ name, Amen.