

## Keep What God Created

### Ephesians 4:3a (NASB)

...being diligent to preserve **the unity of the Spirit**...

- God created this unity, we are to make every effort to keep it
- How God made unity is described in Ephesians 2:14-16
- “Preserve” is *te\_reo\_* which can also be translated “keep” (2 Timothy 4:7)
- Unity here is from the Spirit

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## The Bond of Peace

### Ephesians 4:3b (NASB)

...in the bond of peace.

- “Bond” is from a word related to prisoner that Paul used about himself: *desmios* in 3:1, 4:1 and *sundesmos* in this verse means co-chain
- Peace does not create unity, the Holy Spirit has; but peace preserves it
- The “one new man” of Ephesians 2:15 is what it looks like

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## Implications and Applications

- True unity is grounded in the gospel
- Pastors who care about true unity preach the whole purpose of God
- Those who make “disciples after themselves” harm true unity
- Means of grace preserve true unity

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## Striving for the Faith

### Philippians 1:27 (LEB)

Only lead your lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent I hear your circumstances, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one soul **contending side by side for the faith of the gospel,**

- We are to “live out citizenship” of our heavenly homeland
- One spirit and one soul are gospel-centric

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## The Whole Counsel of God

### Acts 20:26, 27 (ESV)

Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the **whole counsel of God**.

- Paul was in Ephesus addressing the Ephesian elders on his way to Jerusalem
- Counsel is *boule* “purpose” (Eph. 1:11)
- “Innocent” concerning bloodguilt is an allusion to Ezekiel 3:17-21

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## Guard Against False Unity

### Acts 20:28-30 (NASB)

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, **to draw away the disciples after them.**”

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## Means of Grace

### Acts 2:42 (NASB)

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

- Luke narrates this as normative
- Fellowship is around their common faith in Christ, reception of the Spirit and Christ’s teachings given by the apostles
- Breaking bread and prayer are thematic in Luke/Acts and filled with significance

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## The Faith Not “The Vision”

### Jude 1:3 (NASB)

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing **that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.**

- The “once for all” here is critical for true unity which is according to “the faith”
- False teachers had a different plan (vs. 4)

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