

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Luka Herrera

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ricardo Alvillar

Assisting: Tyler Christian
Julius Cook

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Cam Christian

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Devotional: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Tyler Christian

Pantry Item

Soup

Sermon Notes

Choosing Purity

I. *In Spite of* _____

II. *In Spite of* _____

III. *In Spite of* _____

September 28, 2025

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
Fayetteville, NC
28304

Phone:
(910) 425-1108

Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!
Sermons are
archived on our
YouTube page!

Service Times

Sunday:
B. C. 9:00am
Worship 10:00am

Wednesday Night:
B. C. 7:00pm

Ladies' Class:
Tuesdays 10:00am

Elders
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

Volume 50 Issue 12

The Cape Fear Crier

“Cry aloud and shout...for great in the midst of thee is the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 12:6

God's Plan For Religious Unity

By Jimmy Bates (Cont'd)

There are **Attitudes and Actions necessary To Unity**: In Ephesians 4:1-3, Paul speaks of the unity that is to characterize our attitude and life: “...*Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.*” “Vocation” (*klaseos*) — A “calling” which involves that manner of conduct or way of living into which God has called us through the Gospel (II Thess. 2:14): 1) A High Calling (Phil. 3:14). 2) A Holy Calling (II Tim. 1:9). 3) A Heavenly Calling (Heb. 3:1). We are to walk “worthy” (adverb of manner — worthily). Our life and conduct must become the Gospel.

Our lives are to be characterized by “Lowliness” — Humility — (v.2). Jesus is an example of lowliness (Matt. 11:28-30). We must practice lowliness (James 4:6; I Peter 5:6; Romans 12:3). How does one develop lowliness? 1) Look into your spiritual mirror (James 1:23-25); 2) Compare yourself to Christ (II Cor. 10:12).

Humility is necessary to Unity. Our lives are to be characterized by “meekness” — submission (v.2), which is the strength to control one's actions — self discipline (James 1:19-21). Also “longsuffering” — (v.2) — “To suffer long” — patient (II Tim. 4:1,2), a spirit that never gives up (James 5:10; Rev. 2:10; I Peter 5:10). “Forbearing one another in love” (v.2), means “to bear with” — the practical application of longsuffering and the attitude put in action (cf. Col. 3:13). “In love” regulates all of a Christian's attitude toward others. We must give diligent effort to keep unity and peace in the church (v.3). We serve the God of peace (I Thess. 5:23; I Cor. 14:33). Our Lord is the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6; Eph. 2:14). The church is a Kingdom of Peace (Rom. 14:17,19). The Gospel is the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15).

We must not compromise truth to have peace and unity. When truth is compromised, there can be no peace and unity. We endeavor to keep the unity God describes in Ephesians 4:4-6.

GOD'S PLAN FOR UNITY. “*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one*

faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:4-6).

All must *worship and serve* the ONE GOD (cf. John 4:23,24). We cannot have unity with one who worships and serves another god.

All must *submit to the authority* of the ONE LORD. To submit to Him as Lord is to obey Him (Luke 6:46; Heb. 5:8,9). We cannot have unity with one who rejects the authority of the One Lord!

All must *believe and obey the Truth* revealed by the ONE SPIRIT. We cannot have unity with one who rejects the Truth revealed by the One Spirit (II Thess. 2:10-12).

All must *desire* the ONE HOPE (v.4). Hope is a longing desire of confident expectation. The main object of Hope is eternal life in heaven (I Peter 1:3,4; Heb. 6:17-19). There is only One Hope, thus only one way to go to heaven. We are called into this one hope by the Gospel (II Thess. 1:7-9; 2:14). We cannot have unity with one who does not desire the One Hope!

All must *believe and teach* the ONE FAITH (cf. Jude 3; Acts 6:7). The One Faith is the same as the Gospel (Phil. 1:17,27; Rom. 1:16). We cannot have unity with one who does not believe and teach the One Faith (cf. I Cor. 1:10; Phil. 2:2).

All must *practice* the ONE BAPTISM (v.5). There had been other baptisms in the past: 1) unto Moses (I Cor. 10:1-3), 2) John’s baptism (Acts 19:1-5), 3) Baptism of suffering (Matt. 20:22,23), 4) of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11), 5) there will be a baptism of fire in the future (Matt. 3:10-12). But, when Paul wrote Ephesians (A.D. 62,63), there was only one baptism. Jesus had commanded it and it is to last unto the end of the world (Matt. 28:18-20).

The one baptism is a burial in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3,4). It is administered by man (Matt. 28:19,20). It puts one into Christ where salvation is (Gal. 3:26,27). We cannot have unity with one who rejects the One Baptism!

All must *be in* the ONE BODY (v.4; cf. I Cor. 12:13; Rom. 12:4-5). The One Body is the “one church” (Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 1:18). Jesus is the Savior of the “one body” (Eph. 5:23).

We cannot have unity with one who is not in the One Body!

Let us all endeavor “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace!” Not by compromising “union meetings” that are falsely called “unity movements.” But, by following God’s plan for unity. Every Christian is obligated to help maintain unity, peace, and harmony in the church, in keeping with God’s plan!

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 9/21
Chapters Read: 267

B.C.: 30
Worship: 58

Daily Bible Readers: 12
Wednesday: 31

Family News and Notes

We welcome the **McKinley** family to Cape Fear! Jonathan, Bethany, Owen, and Gwen. **Julius Cook’s** cousin was killed an accident recently. **John McDougle, Geraldine Harrington’s** uncle, is not doing well. **Carole Pearson**, Dave Carver’s cousin is still recuperating from a stroke. **Margaret Langston** is in Carolina Inn. **Gwen Jennen** is having health problems. **Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, is in hospice care and not doing well. **Barbara Norris** is also struggling with her health. **Ally** is in West Virginia with her grandparents to help out. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **Linda** is having a medical procedure later this week. **Kim Perkins’** parents need prayers. Her mom is doing much better though.

Also remember: **Linda Boston, Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Wade & Sandra Hedgepeth, Barry & Melany Hatcher, Frances Salaz, Linda Hernandez**, and the **Davis** family.

Bible Reading Plan

Sep 28	Sep 29	Sep 30	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3	Oct 4
Is 43-44	Is 45-46	Is 47-48	Is 49-50	Is 51-52	Is 53-54	Is 55-56
Ps 92-93	Ps 94	Ps 95-96	Ps 97-98	Ps 99-100	Ps 101-102	Ps 103

Events

Gospel Meetings in the area: At Sheffield Drive October 5-8, weeknights at 7pm.
Fall Get-together: Sunday, October 26 5pm at the Hatchers. Bring chili, soups & desserts

