

Day 13

United in Christ

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:1–16

Key Verse

**"Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
Ephesians 4:3**

Today's Devotional

Unity does not happen by accident.

Left to ourselves, we naturally gravitate toward personal preferences, familiar friendships, and individual opinions. The church, however, is something entirely different. It is a family brought together not by common interests but by a common Savior.

Paul begins Ephesians 4 with an appeal, not a command to create unity, but to **preserve** it.

That is an important distinction.

We do not manufacture Christian unity.

Christ has already established it through His death and resurrection. Our responsibility is to protect it.

Paul then describes the attitudes that preserve unity:

Humility.

Gentleness.

Patience.

Bearing with one another in love.

Those virtues are rarely celebrated by our culture, yet they are essential within Christ's church.

As Riva Trace Baptist Church prepares for September 20, change is inevitable.

Some members may worship during a different service than they have attended for years.

Sunday School classes may adjust.

Volunteers may rotate.

Friendships may temporarily experience new rhythms.

Whenever change occurs, there is also opportunity for misunderstanding.

That is precisely why unity requires diligence.

Healthy churches do not avoid change.

Healthy churches walk through change while fiercely protecting their love for one another.

The unity Jesus prayed for in John 17 was never uniformity.

We are not expected to think alike on every preference.

Rather, we are called to remain united around the gospel, the authority of Scripture, the lordship of Christ, and the mission He has given us.

The enemy delights in division because divided churches lose their effectiveness.

But when believers choose humility over pride, forgiveness over resentment, and encouragement over criticism, Christ is glorified.

As you pray today, ask the Lord to make you a peacemaker within His church.

Unity is not someone else's responsibility.

It begins with each one of us.

Think About It

1. Am I contributing to the unity of our church?
2. Is there anyone I need to encourage, forgive, or reconcile with?
3. How can I become a greater source of peace within the body of Christ?

Today's Prayer

Father,

Thank You for making us one in Christ.

Guard our church from division, selfish ambition, and unnecessary conflict.

Help me to demonstrate humility, gentleness, patience, and love in every relationship.

May our unity become a testimony to the transforming power of the gospel.

Amen.

Today's Fast

Fast from negative conversation.

If criticism begins, gently redirect the conversation toward encouragement, prayer, or gratitude.

Prayer Focus

Pray for unity among our Elders, staff, ministry leaders, volunteers, small groups, and every member of our church family.