竭力保守聖靈所賜合而爲一的心

KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

As stated in Ephesians 4:3, Paul said: "Being diligent to preserve the unity of Spirit in the bond of peace." Paul truly understood what God wanted to obtain was His church. In Ephesians 1:23, Paul also explained what church was, saying: "... the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Therefore, church is His body and His fullness. This fullness was once hidden in Christ who was the word incarnated. The fullness was not released until Christ was crucified when His body was broken. His death was like a grain of wheat that has fallen into the earth and died, it has born much fruit. (John 12:24) His release of fullness through death results in the expanded fullness, that is, His church.

教會既是基督的身體,又是基督的 豐滿,只有當教會顯出身體合一的見證 時,神的心才會得著滿足。保羅說要竭 力保守「聖靈的合一」(the unity of the Spirit),是保守合一而不是去造出合一 來,也不是作一些事好達到合一的目 的。我們不能保守我們所沒有的東西, 我們只能保守我們所已有的東西,所以 「聖靈的合一」是神已經賜給我們的。 Church is the body of Christ and the fullness of Christ. So God's heart can not be satisfied until church reveals the testimony of unity in the body. That was why Paul urged us to be diligent to preserve the unity of Spirit. He told us to "preserve", instead of "making" unity, or to do something to "reach" unity. We can never preserve something we do not already have. Hence, the "unity of Spirit" is something God has given us.

當神的兒女重生得救時,聖靈就住在每個人裡面,使我們和世人神師是神師,這是神所明是神所明這是神所明之時,是每一個基督徒所共有的。基督徒的、看法相同就是合一人就自然在這一個「合」」,聖經稱之為「個人,聖經稱之為「個人,是我們一個人,是不能造出一個合

The moment when each of God's children is saved, His Spirit will dwell inside of us. The indwelling Spirit is what makes us different from people in the world, also what makes us believers one. The unity resulting from this "oneness" is the mysterious, but commonly owned, unity that God has given to us. This unity was not man-made, or achieved because we agree with one another. We have been naturally united in one the moment we were saved. This unity is called the "unity of

一,因為我們已經藉着聖靈在基督裏合一了。但是,我們卻能破壞這個合一的功用,叫它不能顯明在神兒女中間。所以,我們所得的命令,是應當竭力的保守這個合一,讓基督身體已有合一的實際能夠實現出來。

Spirit". Although we can not create this unity, we are able to damage the function of this unity. Therefore, Bible commands us to "be diligent to preserve the unity of Spirit" so that this spiritual reality can be seen among us.

以弗所書第四章三節的「合一 (unity)」一字的原文在聖經中只出現過 雨次,另外一處是在以弗所書第四章的 第十三節,「直等到我們眾人在真道上 同歸於一(unity),認識 神的兒子,得 以長大成人,滿有基督長成的身量。」 神賜給教會各樣的恩賜,就是使徒、先 知、傳福音的、牧師和教師等職事,為 的是要成全聖徒,各盡其職,建立基督 的身體。整個教會建造的結果是基督身 體「一」的見證能夠出現。但是,是不 是要所有神的兒女對於每一點聖經的解 釋都要相同,各地聚會的方式都要相 同,甚至行政都要合併,才算是真正 「一」的出現呢?聖經並沒有要求我們 達到外表的合一,乃是說要在真道上和 對神兒子的認識上同歸於一,這裡說的 真道(the faith)乃是指我們的信仰。也就 是說,基督身體建造的結果是要我們在 信仰上,並且在對神兒子完滿的認識上 有「一」的出現。

The word "unity" mentioned in Ephesians 4:3 only appeared one other time in the Bible. It was in Ephesians 4:13 "...until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." God has given church all kinds of gifts, such as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, in order to equip saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. The purpose of building up the church is to reveal the "oneness" of the body of Christ. However, does it mean all various church organizations should hold meetings in the same manner, and all God's children should interpret Bible the same way? Bible does not demand us to have unity in appearance, but in faith and knowledge of the Son of God. The faith speaks of our belief. That is to say, the finish product of Christ's building of His church is for all saints to manifest the "oneness" in our faith and the knowledge of the Son of God.

摘自梁家聲弟兄主日信息

Whether we feel it or not, the fact is that we are in this "oneness". We need to go through His work in the deeper level so that we will live solely for the Lord, not for ourselves. We need to be willing to fellowship with other saints, and, therefore, receive more abundant provision in the body of Christ. However, at the same time, we need to keep our feet on the Lord's narrow way and stay loyal to the commission trusted by Him, knowing everything we do is for the body of Christ. Let us pray that the Lord will help us to live out the testimony of unity and manifest God's glory and fullness.

Sunday Message of brother Timothy Liang