

The Church's Lost Virtue:

UNITY

A stylized, low-poly silhouette of a mountain range in a darker shade of teal, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Psalm 133

- ◆ Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing – Life forevermore.


II Samuel 15:13-16:10

- ◆ Crossing the Brook Kidron
- ◆ Weeping of the King & people
- ◆ Up to Mt. of Olives prayer
- ◆ Faithful with him
- ◆ Rebellion attempt to overthrow the King's throne
- ◆ Donkey brought to be ridden
- ◆ King put his life in God's hand, humble committed himself
- ◆ King is followed being curse and insulted
- ◆ King does not return evil for evil. V16:11 "Let him alone"
- ◆ Divided/Splintered Kingdom followed with unfaithful nation and a faithful remnant


John 17

- ◆ One in Jesus
- ◆ One in the Father
- ◆ One in Us
- ◆ They be made perfect in one
- ◆ V17:23 That the world may know that God sent Jesus & God loves the world
- ◆ V17:25 Jesus reports on His mission


What Unity is Not...

- ◆ All churches that have the same name
 - ◆ All churches that teach the same doctrine
 - ◆ All churches that worship at the same time or with the same pattern
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What Unity is...

- ◆ Exact same spirit dwelling in each Christian
 - ◆ Unity is found Universally and the Universal church is not a collection of churches but individuals
 - ◆ Christians can achieve unity
 - ◆ Churches cannot
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“Christianity” will never be “Unified”

- ◆ Catholicism tried to force it
 - ◆ Reformation tried to force it
 - ◆ Restoration Plead for it
 - ◆ Matthew 23:37 Jesus will never force it
 - ◆ The Lord knows those who are His
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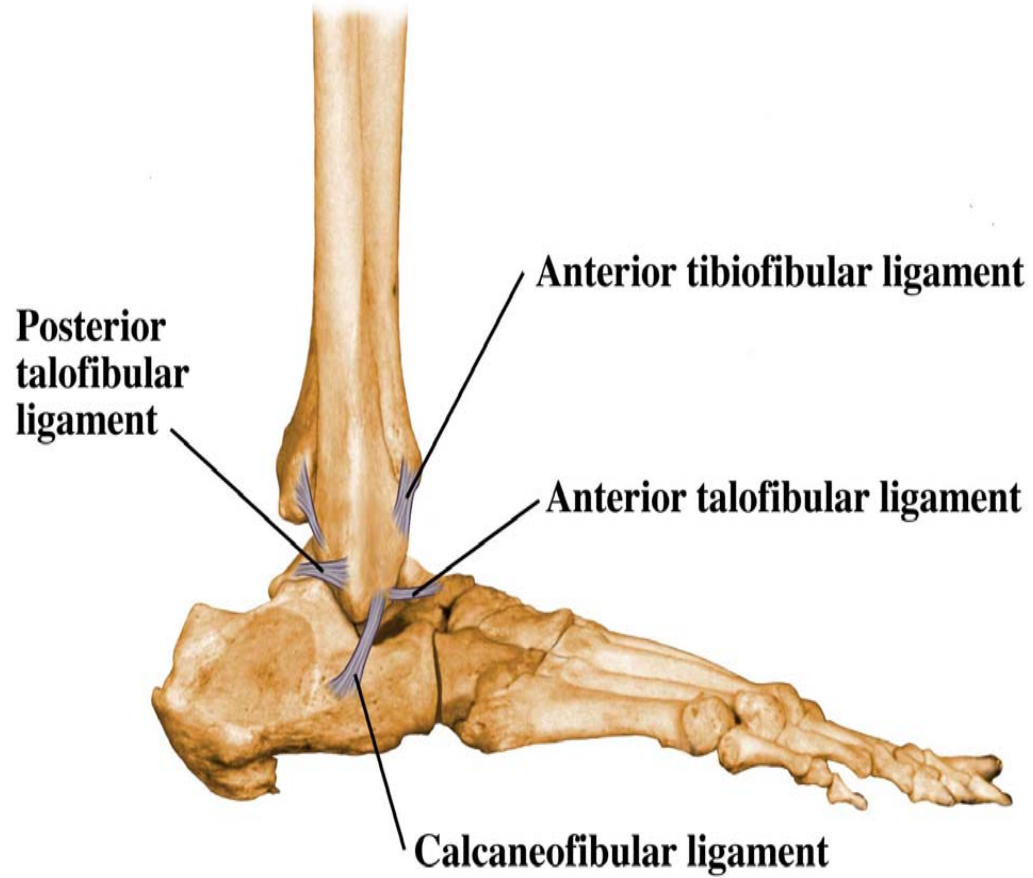
What does it Take to have Unity?

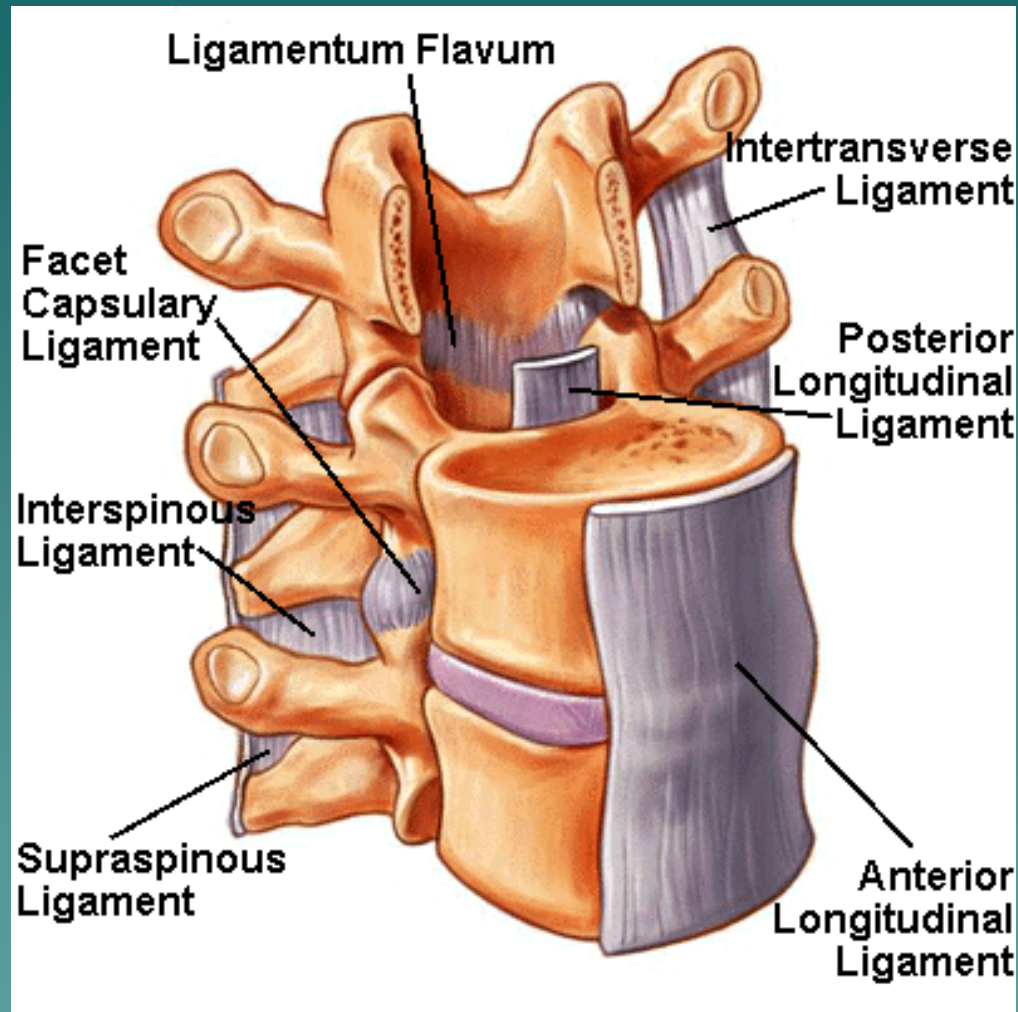
- ◆ Lowliness – Humility
- ◆ Gentleness – Meekness
- ◆ Patience – Longsuffering
- ◆ Love – bearing with another
- ◆ Endeavoring – to keep the unity of the spirit in the Bond of Peace
- ◆ Faith – v 4:7-13
 - “Until we come to unity of the faith”

Bond of Peace

- ◆ Ligament of Peace
- ◆ 'Union' + 'Ligament'
- ◆ "Different" parts of the "Body" are held together by it
- ◆ Ligaments are damaged from overextension
 - Stretched, torn, lose
 - Swelling is to begin healing
 - Surgically repairable

- ◆ A ligament is a tough band of white, fibrous, slightly elastic tissue. This is an essential part of the skeletal joints; binding the bone ends together to prevent dislocation and excessive movement that might cause breakage. Ligaments also support many internal organs; including the uterus, the bladder, the liver, and the diaphragm and helps in shaping and supporting the breasts. Ligaments, especially those in the ankle joint and knee, are sometimes damaged by injury. A "torn" ligament usually results from twisting stress when the knee is turned while weight is on that particular leg. Minor sprains are treated with ice, bandages and sometimes physical therapy, but if the ligament is torn, the joint may be placed in a plaster cast to allow time to heal or it may require surgical repairs. If a ligament is made up of several thick bands of fibrous branches, it is called a "collateral ligament." The word "ligament" comes from the Latin word, "ligamentum," meaning a band or tie.





Ephesians 4

V. 4:7 Each one
Grace was given
Different gifts
For Different
Talents, to
Different
people


Body
Spirit
Hope
Lord
Faith
Baptism
God
Father
You All

Unity
is attainable
By those who
Seek: Lowliness
Gentleness, Patience,
Love, Endeavoring, Faith


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A Goal or a Result?

- ◆ Unity the goal of the church?
 - ◆ Unity the goal of individuals?
 - ◆ At the expense of all else?
 - ◆ Result of Christians walking authentic?
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Perhaps, 'Unity' is not really
the Church's lost virtue,
it is just a lost pursuit of
those who claim to seek
Christ.

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