

The Bond of Peace

Introduction:

- A. Once a little country congregation which heated their building with coal became so divided that the two factions met at separate times and maintained separate coal piles for heating the building. A mischievous lad slipped in early one frosty, Sunday morning and scrawled on the chalk board, “One Lord, One Faith, Two Coal Piles.”
 - B. God wants His people to have peace. - Ephesians 4:1-3
 - C. What attitudes can we manifest that will help achieve peace?
 - I. We must endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. - Ephesians 4:3
 - A. We can have peace without unity. - Romans 12:18; e.g. ,I get along with my neighbors, none of whom are Christians, but we don’t have unity.
 - B. But we cannot have unity without peace.
 - 1. “peace”: “harmony, concord”
 - 2. “bond”: “that which binds together”
 - II. To do this, we must walk “a worthy walk.” - Ephesians 4:1-2
 - A. “vocation”: “calling” - **ASV, NASB**
 - 1. name we wear - Acts 11:26; child disgracing family name
 - 2. employment - Romans 12:11
 - B. What are the characteristics of a worthy walk?
 - 1. lowliness - Philippians 2:3-8
 - 2. meekness: “Meekness” is “regularly used of animals which have been tamed, and which have learned to accept discipline and control” (William Barclay, **Flesh And Spirit**. 113-14).
 - a. obedience to God - Matthew 11:29; Philippians 2:8
 - b. gentleness to fellows - Matthew 12:20; Colossians 4:6
 - 3. longsuffering: “long-tempered” - James 1:19-20
 - 4. forbearing: “to hold up from retaliation” - 1 Peter 2:23
 - 5. love: active good will - 1 John 3:16-18
- ### Conclusion:
- A. Peace among brethren is a wonderful thing. - song “How Sweet, How Heavenly, Is the Sight”
 - B. Are you doing your part to maintain peace among brethren? - Ephesians 4:1-3