

## Sunday Service Sermons

**11 July 2021**

What You Believe Matters

Text *Ephesians 4:4-6, 11-16.*

The heading for this section of scripture is: Unity in the Body of Christ.

Wouldn't that be powerful?

Chapter 4 begins with us, as Christians, being subject to Jesus as Lord.

To live a life that mirrors his life.

Humble, and gentle, patient and considerate of one another.

Live in peace with each other.

One body, one Spirit grounded in hope, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Next is the section we used last week about each of us being given grace for ministry.

Then it was God who gave to each their calling.

Different talents to each believer.

The reason: to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants being lead away by false teachings and deceitful schemes but, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him, who is the Head, that is, Christ.

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament grows, and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

What an image and what a time to recall it.

Nothing new about division.

Divide and conquer is as old as mankind.

Unity is a most powerful force, and unity in love is unbreakable.

Unity founded in God and love founded in Christ.

God calls, Christ equips.

What we believe is basic to the renewal of the church.

If we are to be equipped for ministry today, we must not only know what we stand for and what we stand against, but also what we stand on!

What we believe will ultimately determine what we do.

In the Bible you find a general faith, that God exists.

It also speaks of a saving faith. "For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." *Eph 2:8*

It also speaks of "The Faith", that is the truths that have been revealed through Jesus Christ and God's Word, which we have accepted.

These truths are not just intellectually grasped; they are personally and spiritually received.

Jude three says that we are to "contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints.'

Therefore what you believe matters!

There are four questions about what you believe that must be answered.

1. Is your faith really "your" faith.

Have you made what you have been taught real for you?

What you believe has to become your basis of belief.

Not what you have heard, or learned but what you believe to be true.

You must accept the truth of the Bible as your truth.

If we are growing in Christ, the truths of God's Word become real and illumined in our minds by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy spirit moves truth from our minds to our hearts as we move in and work in the truths of God's Word.

2. Is your faith working?

What is your faith accomplishing?

Do you have power in your life?

Power, power, wonder working power.

Real faith will meet your personal needs.

Faith determines how we live, where we stand, and what we do.

It provides a foundation that can withstand the storms of life.

A real faith will give you something to share.

When you truly believe, you witness to him in whom you believe.

Anna Mow used to ask, "Do you know him."

People are lost and need help knowing God and his love.

Do you have a word of encouragement for them?

Do you have in mind your own testimony of salvation.

Do you know Scripture verses for sharing this truth?

What you believe matters.

3. Is your faith basic?

The distinction between an opinion and a conviction is that an opinion is something you hold while a conviction is something that holds you.

How many convictions do you have?

A basic faith is composed of convictions.

A basic faith consists of beliefs that really matter.

What you believe about Jesus Christ and how he relates to salvation, victory, and destiny matters.

What you believe about the Bible matters.

Do you truly believe that it is God's Word?

What you believe about the Holy Spirit matters.

What you believe about salvation and the church and all of the basic doctrines of the Bible matters.

A basic faith is personal.

What do you believe?

What do you believe about God, the Trinity, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, witnessing, stewardship, and the many basic truths of the Scriptures?

Write out your personal theology and be strengthened in what you believe.

A basic faith is one worth dying for.

Would you die for what you believe?

Many have in ages past and in recent years.

What do you believe that you would hold at any cost?

4. Is your faith Christ-centered?

The foundation of our faith is Jesus Christ.

The disciples stood firm on Jesus' testimony of who he was.

They had the Old Testament, but their walk of faith began with an encounter with Jesus Christ.

They met him and followed him, and he changed their lives!

The earliest know confession is "Jesus is Lord".

He is the center of our faith.

The acid test of a genuine saving faith is spiritual maturity, Christ-likeness, the stature of the fullness of Christ.

It is not enough just to be orthodox. We are to be Christ-like!

This is being renewed in our faith and being ready for service.

And ready to give an answer for what we believe and what it does for us.

Are you able said the master.

Lord we are able our spirits are thine, remold them, make us like thee divine, Thy guiding radiance above us shall be, a beacon to God to love and loyalty.

Let this be true for each, and all of us.