

Ephesians 4:1-6

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

TRUE UNITY

According to Bob Johnstone's popular "Today in History", June 1 marks the anniversary of the Massey Report, presented by Vincent Massey and his fellow commissioners, to the Canadian government in 1951. "Academics and scientists and professors and artists and musicians and writers, philosophers and industrialists all appeared before Massey's Commission and told what sort of country they wanted to live in." Massey in turn reported this to the Canadian government with particular recommendations regarding developing a unique Canadian culture, particularly promoted through the media.

Defining life as citizens of a multi-culture country is not always easy. A similar problem faced the early church. Although the church began primarily among believers of Jewish culture as the continued revelation of God, (a task that Israel was chosen to preserve as the Old Testament), a great variety of peoples from all nationalities and cultures soon were drawn to the liberating truth of the gospel. As a result, the church quickly faced the dilemma of cultural differences.

It was in this context that God led Paul to deliver several treatise on the nature of the body of Christ - His church. To the Ephesians Paul wrote: "...Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow-citizens with God's people and members of God's household" (Ephesians 2:19 NIV). To the Colossians Paul stated: "...the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all" (Colossians 3 NIV).

It is not power nor persuasion, neither is it politics that unites humanity with all its distinctive of race, colour, language and culture. It is new life in Christ. Only as each person surrenders to the truth of personal sin and believes that Christ paid the penalty of sin on the cross, destroying its power and conquering its consequence of death through His resurrection, can true unity be found.

The wonderful truth is that no matter what culture or language, salvation "has broken down the middle wall of division" (Ephesians 2:14), making all believers "a habitation of God in the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:22). As such, God, even as He set forth the matters of the Old Testament Temple, has set forth the pattern of life for those He indwells. His people do not collectively decide, as the Massey Report, what they want to do and how they want to live. Rather, God sets forth His own purposes, designs and will: "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8 NIV). God's single criteria for life is obedience to His word. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

It is in the context of following His will as revealed in His Word that believers find true unity in the Spirit, and stability in the faith (see Ephesians 4). Friend, how do you see people united?

What is my response:
