

Theme: Maintaining the Unity of The Spirit in The Bond of Peace

Rev. David Fanning

Scriptures: Ephesians 4:25 to 5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

What This Adds up to, Then, is This!

Today's reading from Ephesians 4:25-5:2 commences with just two words - **So then** (New Revised Standard Version), or just one word - **Therefore** (New International Version). On the other hand Eugene Petersen (The Message) fleshes out **so then** and **therefore** as follows:

What this adds up to then, is this. (So what is the sum total?)

Put away falsehood, thieves must give up stealing, get rid of evil talk. Dismiss bitterness, wrath, anger, wrangling, slander and malice. (4:25-31).

But thankfully it all adds up to something More!

Speak the truth to your neighbours, Be angry, but do not sin, "ex-thieves" must get an honest job and give to the needy. Speak words that build up so that grace may be offered to those who hear, be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as Christ has forgiven you. (4:25-31)

What is it that adds up to This? (So, what are parts to be added?)

In Ephesians 1:10 Paul declares that God has a plan - *which God will complete when the time is right, is to bring all creation together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head.*" (Good News Bible)

And More...

*For Christ himself has brought us peace by making Jews and Gentiles one people. (Ep 2:14)
It is through Christ that all of us, Jews and Gentiles, are able to come in the one Spirit into the presence of the Father. (2:18)*

Unity is Christ's Gift. As a Uniting Church we seek to bear witness to that unity which His Gift.





And More...

In Ephesians 4 we meet unity as Christ's will.

I urge you then....do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds us together (4:3).

Unity is Christ's Will. As a Uniting Church we seek to bear witness to that unity which is His Will.

What this adds up to them, is this. (The Sum Total)

Paul doesn't tell the Ephesians to do all these "good" things (4:25-31) in order to be Christians, but rather tells them to do all these things because they are Christians who have received Christ's gift of unity and who seek to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

And the challenge!

Since you are God's dear children, you must try to be like him. Your life must be controlled by love, just as Christ loved us and gave his life for us as a sweet smelling offering and sacrifice that pleases God. (5:1,2) (GNB)

~ Grace and peace ~
David



This Thursday, **15th August, 9.30am** in the CE Room.
Everyone is welcome.

Gympie Worship Next Week with Rev. Dr. Peter Hall

Life and Witness Assessment

A warm welcome to Rev Russell Morris, Rev David Ellis and Mrs Wendy Jensen who have formed a Presbytery Consultation Team assessing the Life and Witness of our church. They are with us in Gympie this weekend and will be at Imbil on the weekend of the 24th and 25th August. Those of our Imbil church family who would like to make an appointment to chat with them can arrange to do so by phoning Joan Burke on 0400 439 009.

BBQ and Games

We hope you can join us for a BBQ and Games event in two weeks time, **next Sunday 18th August**, at our Gympie church. We'll have a light morning tea after our worship service and then roll into a BBQ lunch and games. Hope you can join in the fun!





Those who walk with God always reach their destination.

Henry Ford

Friends of The Bible Society

The next morning tea together will be at 'The Coffee Club' (Central Shopping Centre) on **Wednesday, 21st August, 9.30am**. Please see Linda Percival for more info.

Christmas Shoeboxes

During August, we're asking for funds towards the **Cost of Freight** (which is \$12.50 per box). Donations can be placed in an envelope labelled "Shoebox" and dropped into the offering plate/box; given directly to Helen or the office; or deposited into our bank account identified as "Shoebox" (our bank account details are on the back page). If you have any gift donations sitting at home, please bring them in by the end of August. *Thank you so much for your generosity this year - this is an amazing ministry bringing delight to many children across the globe.*

Hope Reins Bush Dance

Are you ready for a nostalgic evening of toe-tappin' and boot-scootin'? This will be a great family-friendly, outdoor event where you can have a lot of fun while helping raise funds for HOPE REINS.

Saturday, 31st August, 5:30 to 9:30pm at the home of HOPE REINS, 727 Eel Creek Rd, Langshaw, 4570.

Tickets can only be purchased in advance at www.trybooking.com/1194736

\$30 Adults, \$25 Adult concession, \$70 family pass (2 adults + 2 children under 17yrs + \$10 for each additional child). Tickets include 1 burger and a drink (sausage available). Extra drinks and burgers can be purchased on the night.

- * **Uniting 4570 Prayer Warriors** - 8am, Tuesday mornings, CE room
- * **Oriana Choir** - Saturday, 17th August, 2pm, St Patrick's Church
- * **BBQ Lunch & Games** - Sunday, 18th August, at our Gympie Church.
- * **Combined Churches Prayer** - Tuesday, 20th August, 6 to 6.30pm, 34 O'Connell Street, Gympie.
- * **Vivaldi Spring (Strings Concert)** - Sunday, 1st September, Anglican Church (Gympie). Gold coin donation, refreshments afterward.
- * **Spring HymnFest** - details to come.



UNITING 4570
Better together

God's Goal

"God's overarching goal is to produce men and women who demonstrate the character qualities of Jesus Christ. God does not want a church filled with white robed saints. He does not want a church fill with theological or cultured clergy. He wants a church filled with ordinary men and women who exemplify the extraordinary integrity, temperament, wholeness, compassion, individuality, boldness, righteousness, earnestness, love, forgiveness, selflessness and faithfulness of Jesus Christ!" *(Ray Steadman)*

The People of God on The Way

The Uniting Church affirms that it belongs to the people of God on the way to the promised end. The Uniting Church prays that, through the gift of the Spirit, God will constantly correct that which is erroneous in its life, will bring it into deeper unity with other Churches, and will use its worship, witness and service to God's eternal glory through Jesus Christ the Lord.

~ from Uniting 4570's Operational Guidelines ~

Worship

Worship Services... **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church (school term)
Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

Live-streaming... Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

Contact Us

Church Office... M: 0493 442 250 P: (07) 5482 2985 E: cherylie@gruc.org
www.gruc.org.au F: www.facebook.com/guchurch

Office Hours... Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm

Pastoral Care... Please contact the office by phone or email.

- Need the services of a Justice of The Peace? ... Glenda 0418 187 698
- Need help with your computer? ... Mike 0403 271 413
- Need a lift to church? ... Jill 0421 333 538
- Need prayer? ... call the church office 0493 442 250

Offering & Attendance Last Week

Attendance: Adults 63 ♦ Children 5 ♦ No livestreamed message last week.
Total Week's Offering: \$ 1,969.50 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.
Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101
(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)