



Paul Burkhart: Spoken - "Us & Them": The one New Man from every tribe, tongue, & nation

Intro: *Proverbs 18:1*

- it is foolish to do this alone

1. Unity:

Ephesians 2:13-18

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

a. Jesus died for it:

- to bring both us and Glory to Himself (*v.13*)

- Why? To make peace, create one new man, and reconcile us (*vv.15-16*)

b. It's necessary for God's work (*vv. 21-22*) *in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

- To display his wisdom and Glory from the inside of us

c. It's necessary for our work

- with Non-Christians (*3:1,10*) *For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles . . . so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*

- with Christians (*2:13-15*)

that we might grow together

yes, even in doctrine (*4:13-16*) 13 *until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

2. Diversity:

Revelation 5:9-10

2 And they sang a new song, saying,

*“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”*

- a. Jesus died for it (v.9)
- b. It's necessary for God's work (v. 10)
 - to establish His kingdom
- c. It's necessary for our work
 - with non-Christians (v.9)
 - “ransomed from every nation” (no “men” in the Gk, emphasizing diversity)
 - His desire for diversity makes Evangelism possible! (Mt. 28:18)
 - with Christians (v.10)
 - we will reign and rule together, in differing roles “kingdom” *and* “priests”

3. Practical Stuff:

Romans 12:3-6

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

Ephesians 4:1-7

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

- a. “walk”
- b. “bearing with each other”
 - get thick skins
- c. “eager”
 - desire to do whatever it takes
- d. Don't forget about diversity! (v.7 - “but . . .”)
 - It's good (“purposeful” & “manifold” - many colored)
 - Galatians 2:8-9 - it's okay we don't hang out with everyone
- e. Not just race

- even just among our own differences person to person
- it's gonna take time, sacrifice, tough skin
- what it means, what it doesn't mean

4. Worship:

Romans 12:1

“yourselves” (pl) as “a living sacrifice” (sing)

Proverbs 28:1

“when the righteous [pl] are as bold as a [sing] lion”

- “bold”: to trust, have confidence in, to be secure in, to make secure, to feel safe.

- other verses with that word in it that have to do with worship:

Psalm 28:7

Psalm 33:21

Psalm 82:8