



Sermon, Sunday September 11, 2022 “We Are Only One Family in Jesus Christ”

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:1-6 ¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Introduction: My Cambodia Travel Story

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

Let us greet each other; "Bless you."

Autumn is a great season to travel. I love to travel. Twelve years ago, in the summer of 2010, I visited Siem Reap, home to the Angkor Wat, to meet a missionary couple in Cambodia. Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in the world. Most Americans don't know what Cambodia is like. But those interested in Cambodia may have heard of the Killing Fields, where more than a million citizens suffered genocide during the Khmer Rouge regime.

I was not interested in Cambodia 12 years ago. I just wanted to visit the world-famous temple, Angkor Wat, when given the chance. However, through my trip to Cambodia, I met children with such bright eyes that gradually I understood the history and culture of the Cambodian people.

This experience has taught me how important it is for us to meet, talk, and get to know each other. I hope that today's three-church unity picnic with four communities will be a time to get to know each other a little more.

It is difficult for different communities to come together as one physically or by force. Uniting requires frequent encounters, communication and understanding. Based on this, only when there is love for each other can we form a truly united community.



However, there are many obstacles around us that prevent us from moving towards unity. Indifference, prejudice, superiority, discrimination, and misunderstandings prevent us from being one. Today I would like to share with you a video of a project called 'Let's Open Our World', planned by a Danish travel agency called Momondo. Let us watch the video together.

Body & Conclusion: In Jesus we are one family

A travel agency called Momondo in Denmark was conducting a project called 'Let's Open Our World' to understand diversity. The project tested the DNA of participants from 67 different nationalities. They met two weeks afterwards to see the DNA results. As shown in the video, participants experienced a brief interview about their nationality and culture before having their DNA tested.

In today's video, an Englishman named Jay is proud to be British. And because of his parents' experiences of participating in World War II, he has negative thoughts about Germany.

However, because of DNA testing, the DNA of a British man named Jay showed he had an estimated 55% Irish ethnicity, 30% Great Britain ethnicity, and 5% of German ethnicity, despite his having negative thoughts about the Germans. Jay, who prides himself on being British, is very surprised that DNA evidence shows he is only 30% British. Many of the 67 participants on this project had experiences like Jay's.

However, Jay's experience in the video is only a difference in degree, and it is also found in us.

Now, let us return to today's text. Today's text, **Ephesians 4:2, says; "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."** This verse commands us to do something very difficult, to become one body through keeping these commands.

For us to truly experience one body (one church) as in the words of Ephesians in today's text, we must have love for each other. This love is not given to us without any effort. It is created in our hearts when we meet, talk, and try to understand each other through the help of the Holy Spirit.



I hope that today's three-church combined picnic will be a time to understand each other a little bit more. Our skin color, language, food, and culture may be different, but if we can understand and love each other, we can overcome the differences and become one.

Jesus Himself showed us unity through His life. I hope that we too can imitate Jesus and achieve unity.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father! Grant us today the grace of the Holy Spirit so that we can understand each other with an open mind. So, help us to form one church in the Holy Spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen!

