What unites us as a Body?

1. Our calling

   Ephesians 4:1 (ESV) 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. Our distinct character

   Ephesians 4:2-3 (ESV) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

   a. Humility See Philippians 2
   b. Gentleness

   1 Peter 3:15-16 (ESV) but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

   c. Patience
   d. Bearing with one another in love
   e. Eager to maintain unity

3. Our doctrinal convictions

   Ephesians 4:4-6 (ESV) There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

   • One Body – This refers to the church. There is one church that Christ will come to receive.
   • One Spirit – This refers to the Holy Spirit. We do not create unity, we maintain it. The Spirit creates it.
   • One Hope – “that belongs to your call”. The call to salvation. We share the same certain future because of Christ’s resurrection.

   Ephesians 1:18 (ESV) having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
• **One Lord** – This is the Lord Jesus Christ. His deity, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and return.

• **One Faith** – This refers to the body of truth we embrace.

• **One Baptism** – This refers to our identification with Christ.

• **One God and Father** – We have one God, but notice we have one Lord.

4. **Our diversity**

*Ephesians 4:7-10 (ESV)* ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸ Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” ⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?) ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)