

Luke 11:14-23

"A House United"

June 1, 2025

1. Intro

- a. A few weeks ago, I shared with you all a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, as he accurately stated that "the most segregated hour in our nation is at 11:00 on Sunday mornings"
 - i. The fact that there is still racial division within the church is evident by the fact that we have Hispanic churches, black churches, and churches like ours, where the vast majority of our members are "white" Americans
 1. But the division in the church goes well beyond just ethnicity, doesn't it?
 - a. Depending on which source you go to, there are anywhere between 40 and 45 THOUSAND different protestant denominations in the world today
 - i. Just within the Baptist denomination, you have...
 1. Southern Baptists...
 2. Freewill Baptists...
 3. Reformed Baptists...
 4. Progressive Baptists...
 5. Separate Baptists...
 6. And even a denomination called "Two Seed in the Spirit Predestinarian Baptists"
 - a. I have to be honest and say that I have no idea what that denomination is all about!
 2. But it's not just denominational or ethnic division either, is it?
 - a. We're also seeing a rapid increase in political division within our churches, aren't we?
 - i. It was almost an understood this past year that if you are a true, biblical church, then you had to support Donald Trump for president
 1. And any church, or any Christian, who supported Kamala Harris was, by default, labeled as progressive and liberal and in error
 - a. There has always been political tension within our churches here in this nation
 - i. But I think it is safe to say that it has never been THIS deep... or this UGLY
 3. But on an even more somber note, it's estimated that each decade, 1 out of every 10 churches here in America will split over any number of issues
 - a. Most will split over doctrinal disagreements
 - b. Many will split over changes in the leadership
 - c. Some will split over disagreements on social issues
 - i. But the numbers don't lie...
 1. As we are in this decade of the 2020's, one out of every ten churches here in the US WILL split
 4. This is NOT a great way to begin a sermon, is it??
 - a. But this is the reality in which we live today
 - i. And so, as we look at our passage this morning in Luke 11, I want you to keep this reality in mind

1. And I want us to TRULY examine the question, “If the Kingdom of God here on this earth is so incredibly divided, how can it stand?”

b. So, let’s look at Luke 11:14-23...

2. Luke 11:14-23

- a. *¹⁴Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.*

3. Well, the first observation that stands out in this passage is the fact that, as we see in verse 14, there are apparently MUTE demons

- a. And if a mute demon has possessed a person, then apparently that person will be mute as well
 - i. Now, we want to be careful that we don’t build an entire doctrine around verses like this
 1. We certainly wouldn’t want to say that, because of this passage, we now know that EVERY mute person MUST have a mute demon
 - a. That would be a wrong conclusion for sure
 2. But it is fascinating to think about certain demons having certain ailments, and the ailment that the DEMON has gets manifested in the person they have possessed
 - a. At the very least, we can say that this is evidence that these demons, who were once angels of great beauty and splendor...
 - i. Are now reaping the consequences of their rebellion against their Creator
- b. Regardless of the type of demon though, Jesus of course has no problem whatsoever in casting this demon out
 - i. And so we see also in verse 14, Jesus cast out the demon...
 1. The mute man began to speak...
 2. And the people marveled
 - a. But not everyone was impressed, were they?

4. In verses 15 and 16, we read that...

- a. *¹⁵... some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven.*
 - i. So, who is this Beelzebul that some of them are talking about?
 1. If you’re familiar with John Milton’s classic, *Paradise Lost*, then you might think that Beelzebul is a lower demon, which is why they say here in this verse that he is the “prince of demons”
 - a. In Milton’s novel, Beelzebul, or Beelzebub, is Satan’s second-in-command over all of Satan’s armies
 - i. At first, Beelzebub is grieved over their fall from heaven, and he regrets that they have rebelled against the Almighty God
 - ii. But Satan soon convinces him that they can get revenge against God, if they would turn all of their focus against His creation...
 1. Specifically, against Adam and Eve

- a. And from there, Beelzebub then becomes Satan's mouthpiece, as he rallies the troops to war
- 2. That all makes for some great fictional writing, but there isn't really much Scriptural ground for Milton to stand on here
 - a. The word used for "prince," here in verse 15, is not a definitive word
 - i. It COULD mean a lower prince, but it could ALSO mean the "chief," or "leader"
 - 1. In Revelation 1:4-5, John uses this word in relation to Jesus, as he writes,
 - a. *⁴Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the RULER of kings on earth.*
 - i. So Jesus certainly is not some LESSER prince in this use of the word...
 - ii. He is the RULER of ALL the kings on earth
 - ii. We also see in Ephesians 2 that Paul uses this title in a way that seems to very clearly point to Satan himself, when he says in verses 1-3,
 - 1. *¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the PRINCE of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*
 - iii. It is unlikely that Paul would write such a weighty statement regarding some LESSER prince, who we ALL once served
 - 1. The prince of the power of the air MUST be Satan himself
 - a. And therefore, the prince of the demons, Beelzebub, must ALSO be Satan
- 3. What we find in the Old Testament is that the name Beelzebub, is actually a parody of the name of a false god found in 2 Kings 1, Ba'al-Zebub
 - a. When Ahaziah, king of the northern kingdom of Israel, fell through the lattice on his roof, he sent messengers out, saying to them,
 - i. *²"Go, inquire of Ba'al-Zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness."*
 - 1. These messengers were then intercepted by the prophet, Elijah the Tishbite, and he said to them,
 - a. *³"Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Ba'al-Zebub, the god of Ekron? ⁴Now therefore thus says the Lord, 'You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'"*
 - ii. Ba'al-Zebub was the false god of Ekron, and therefore he was powerless to save Ahaziah
 - b. But, somewhere in the history of the Jewish people, they took this name, Ba'al-Zebub, and they applied it to Satan himself

- i. Literally, this name, Beelzebul, can be translated as the “Lord of the Flies,” or even as the “Lord of Dung”
 - 1. This was a name of derision and slander
 - 2. This was a name deserving of the Great Deceiver
 - a. For you could well say, EVERYTHING that comes out of his mouth is truly... DUNG
 - ii. So we see that there are some people who are marveling at Jesus’ actions
 - 1. There are some who accuse him of doing this in the power of Satan
 - 2. And there are some who just want to see more signs and wonders from this great Prophet
 - a. Like the people in some controversial thread on social media, they’ve got their bowl of popcorn...
 - i. And they’re just here for the comments
 - 1. They didn’t really care where Jesus got his power from – they just wanted to see some more entertainment
 - 3. Jesus doesn’t give this third group his attention, but instead speaks to those in the second, as we read in verses 17 and 18,

5. Luke 11:17-19

- a. *¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.”*
 - i. Jesus knew what these people were thinking...
 - 1. He knew that they were attributing this miracle to Satan, and not to God
 - a. And so he says to them in very simple logic...
 - i. Friends, that makes NO SENSE AT ALL
 - 1. Why would Satan cast out HIS OWN demons?
 - 2. Why would Satan want to free a man who was under HIS control?
 - 3. Why would Satan want to do anything that would cause people to MARVEL at the man claiming to be the Son of God?
 - ii. If Satan is divided against himself in such a way, then how will his kingdom stand?
 - 1. That kind of argument just doesn’t hold up
 - 2. “And in addition to your faulty logic,” Jesus says, “What about your own sons who cast out demons? Do you accuse THEM the way you’re accusing me?”
 - a. In Acts 19:13, we read that, in those days, there were itinerant Jewish exorcists in the city of Ephesus
 - i. These were Jewish religious leaders who traveled from town to town, attempting to cast out demons by reciting certain prayers, or conducting certain rituals
 - 1. This obviously was a well-known practice among the Jewish people, because Jesus knew of these types of men years before Paul encountered them in Ephesus
 - 3. And so Jesus says, “What about them? Do you accuse THEM of operating under the power of Beelzebul as well?”
 - a. Obviously, this was a rhetorical question

- i. Jesus knew that if these men were truly casting out demons, then they were casting out demons by the power of God – NOT the power of Satan
 - 1. And therefore, they would serve as the judges to expose the error of these false accusations
- 6. And then Jesus firmly states the TRUE explanation in verse 20,
 - a. *²⁰"BUT... if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."*
 - i. This concept of the "finger of God," is a concept that is firmly rooted in the Old Testament
 - 1. In Exodus 8, as God is sending plague after plague upon the Egyptian people,
 - a. Pharaoh's magicians attempt to replicate these plagues, to try to show the people that ANYONE could conjure these tricks up if they are clever enough
 - i. But in verses 18 and 19, we read these words...
 - 1. *¹⁸The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is THE FINGER OF GOD." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.*
 - b. Pharaoh's heart was still hard, but the magicians finally began to see...
 - i. These things were coming from God Himself
 - 1. This is truly the finger of God!
 - 2. In Deuteronomy 9:10, as Moses is recounting to the people what had happened at Mt. Sinai and the giving of the Law, he said to them...
 - a. *¹⁰And the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone written with THE FINGER OF GOD, and on them were all the words that the Lord had spoken with you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly.*
 - 3. And in Psalm 8:1-4, David proclaims these marvelous words...
 - a. *¹O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. ²Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. ³When I look at your heavens, THE WORK OF YOUR FINGERS, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*
 - i. In Exodus 8, it was the powerful plagues against the enemy of God's people
 - ii. In Deuteronomy 9, it was the Law of God written down for His people
 - iii. And in Psalm 8, it was the creation of ALL things...
 - 1. The moon, the stars, EVERYTHING!
 - a. And ALL of these things were attributed, to the finger of God
 - b. Now clearly, as Jesus says in John 4, God is Spirit
 - i. So we aren't talking about His LITERAL fingers
 - 1. So why use such language then?
 - a. Well, if I were to go up to a stack of empty cardboard boxes, I could EASILY topple the whole stack with just the push of one finger, couldn't I?
 - i. And by just using one finger, it would show how I was exponentially more powerful than that stack of boxes

4. So then, think about what the Scriptures are telling us...
 - a. By just the push of one finger, God unleashed ten HORRIFIC plagues upon an entire country of people
 - b. By just the slight press of one finger, God carved into stone the Law that would govern His chosen nation FOR CENTURIES
 - c. Through just the work of His fingers, God created a universe so vast that even today, with all of our technological advances, we haven't even scratched the surface of all He has made
 - d. And, by the strength and power and authority contained in just one finger, a demon was cast out, and a man was made free
 - i. Jesus was leaving no room for doubt here...
 1. The Kingdom of God had most assuredly come upon them!
 - a. And metaphorically speaking, all it took was just the finger of God to bring it about
 - ii. Jesus illustrates this incredible power with a brief parable in the next two verses...

7. Luke 11:21-22

- a. *²¹"When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil."*

- i. Friends, have no doubt about it...
 1. As strong as our great adversary is... as heavily as he is armed... as mighty as he might be
 - a. Jesus is the One who is stronger than he!
 - i. And from the moment he came to this earth...
 1. Willingly submitting himself to the plan of His Father
 2. Willingly emptying himself of the glories of heaven
 3. Willingly taking on the form of a servant
 - ii. From the moment that Jesus took on flesh and entered into our world, he began dismantling the armor of Beelzebub
 - b. Jesus has come to bind the strong man
 - i. According to the corresponding passage in Matthew 12, Jesus has come to plunder Satan's house
 - ii. And he WILL divide Satan's spoil
 1. So what is the plunder? What is the spoil?
 - a. Well, it certainly IS NOT worldly riches or kingdoms
 - i. Jesus made that clear when he resolutely refused Satan's temptation with these things in the wilderness
 2. Friends, if you are a follower of Jesus Christ here today, then YOU are the plunder!
 - a. YOU are the spoils of war!
 - b. YOU are the great trophies of Christ's victory over the strong man!
- iii. This is what Paul affirms for us in Ephesians chapter 4
 1. Go ahead and turn there in your Bibles
 - a. We looked last week at verses 1-6, as we talked about the unity that we are to strive to maintain in the power of the Holy Spirit
 - i. But, look at what Paul says in verses 7-8
 1. *⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."*

- ii. We don't have the time to look at it this morning, but Paul is quoting a passage from Psalm 68 here in these verses
 - 1. And the imagery in Psalm 68 is AMAZING
 - a. In this Psalm, David is praising God for how He delivered Israel out of their captivity in Egypt
 - b. He uses language that describes God as "marching before His people through the wilderness"
 - i. And as He marched victoriously, the earth quaked, kings fled, and entire bodies of water were split in two
 - iii. When God ascended to Mt Sinai, he led the freed captives of Israel behind Him
 - 1. They were His spoils of war against the pagan gods of Egypt
 - b. And in just the same way, after Jesus died on the cross for our sins...
 - i. After he was buried in the tomb...
 - ii. After he was raised from the dead on the third day...
 - 1. And as he is now ascended into heaven, seated victoriously upon his throne...
 - a. He ALSO has a train of freed captives behind him
 - 2. For those who might have had the ears to hear, this was EXACTLY what Jesus had said he was going to do, back in Luke chapter 4
 - a. As he returned to his hometown of Nazareth, where the people would soon try to throw him off of a cliff, Jesus entered into the synagogue there and began to teach
 - i. And verses 17-19 say,
 - 1. *¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*
- iv. Jesus, the mighty Son of God, had come to bind the strong man
 - 1. The plundering of Satan's house had begun
 - a. Liberty was given to those who were held captive and to those who were oppressed
 - i. And that same freedom continues still today
 - 1. Every time a lost sinner repents from their sin, and they confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord, and they believe in their heart that God raised him from the dead...
 - 2. Every time someone is saved, Satan's house is plundered
 - a. And Jesus takes for himself another spoil of war... another trophy of HIS victory
- v. Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is just the finger of God at work, as His Kingdom continues to come down to this earth, just as it is in Heaven
 - 1. And if we would let these truths sink in, we would begin to realize what Paul himself realized in Colossians 3:11

- a. That here... within the Kingdom of God here on earth, “there are not Greeks and Jews... there are not the circumcised and the uncircumcised... there are not barbarians and Scythians, or slaves and freedmen...”
 - i. In this Kingdom, Christ is ALL
 - ii. And Christ is IN ALL
- 8. Or as Jesus says in Luke 11:23
 - a. ²³“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.”
 - i. Friends, regardless of the fact that there are over 40,000 Protestant denominations throughout the world...
 - 1. Regardless of the fact that there are still ethnic and political divides within just about every church
 - a. Regardless of the fact that even among us Baptists, there are still DOZENS of different types of Baptists...
 - 2. Regardless of all of these divisions that WE have created, the Bible is much more simple in its approach
 - a. You’re either WITH Jesus... or you are not
 - b. You’re either gathering people into his Kingdom with Jesus... or you are scattering
 - c. You’re either part of the host of freed captives, marching behind your victorious King... or you are still bound in Satan’s chains
 - i. My friends, here, within the Kingdom of God here on earth...
 - 1. There are not Greeks and Jews
 - 2. There are not Republicans and Democrats
 - 3. There are not Baptists and Methodists and Presbyterians
 - 4. There are not Whites and Blacks and Hispanics and Asians
 - a. Christ is all
 - b. And Christ is IN all
 - i. For HE is the One who went into the strong man’s house
 - ii. HE is the One who bound the strong man in unbreakable chains
 - iii. And HE is the One plundering the strong man’s house, as he rescues us from the dominion of darkness, and brings us into HIS Kingdom
 - 9. Brothers and sisters, THIS is how we answer the question posed at the beginning of the sermon
 - a. In light of all of the division that exists within the churches today, can the Kingdom of God continue to stand upon this earth?
 - i. It CAN, and it most assuredly WILL, when we as individual Christians make the commitment to dwell in unity with one another
 - 1. Look back at our Scripture reading for this morning in Psalm 133
 - a. How GOOD and PLEASANT it is when brothers dwell in unity
 - i. For IN UNITY is where the blessing of the Lord resides!
 - 1. IN UNITY is how the Kingdom of God continues to stand
 - 2. And IN UNITY is how the Kingdom of God continues to advance
 - ii. Look again at Ephesians chapter 4
 - 1. Again, Paul opens this chapter with the exhortation to walk in a manner worthy of our calling
 - a. And he explains that that looks like being humble toward one another

- b. That looks like be gentle and patient with one another
 - c. That looks like bearing with one another in love
 - i. And that looks like being EAGER to maintain the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace
- 2. Paul then reminds us that Christ has freed us from the shackles of sin
 - a. He has freed us from Satan's yoke
 - i. And he is leading us in his victorious procession
- b. But look at what Paul also says in verse 8...
 - i. Christ is leading a host of captives, AND he has given gifts to men
 - 1. So what are these gifts that Christ has given?
 - a. Well, skip down to verse 11...
 - i. *¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers...*
 - 1. Now, there is a lot of theological debate surrounding the apostles and the prophets, and whether or not these offices still exist in the church today
 - a. I would argue that they DO NOT, since Paul says earlier in Ephesians 2 that the Apostles and the Prophets formed the FOUNDATION of the Church, with Christ Jesus being the cornerstone of that foundation
 - b. So for us today, WE are building upon the foundation that has already been laid
 - c. Specifically, it has been laid for us in God's revealed word, the Bible
- 2. But I believe that Christ is STILL giving the gifts of the evangelists, the shepherds, and the teachers
 - a. The evangelists are those whom God has naturally gifted to have an almost insatiable desire to share the Gospel with others
 - i. They want to talk about Jesus with every stranger, every neighbor, everyone God brings across their path
 - 1. And they are good gifts from our Lord, for they serve to encourage and motivate and inspire the rest of the body of Christ
 - 2. Or in Paul's words,
 - a. They serve to equip the saints for the works of ministry
 - i. The evangelists are a gift from Jesus to his bride, the Church
 - b. The shepherds are the pastors, the elders of the church
 - i. They are the men – and in this case, ONLY the men – whom God has gifted with a unique passion for His church
 - 1. They long to see the church moving toward spiritual maturity
 - 2. They long to see the church moving toward a greater purity
 - 3. They long to see the church made ready for the return of Christ
 - a. So they shepherd, and lead, and guide, and counsel, with all of these things at the forefront of their hearts and their minds
 - i. These men serve to equip the saints for the works of ministry

- ii. The shepherds are a gift from Jesus to his bride, the Church
 - c. And the teachers are those with an overwhelming desire to teach the Word of God
 - i. This might be men teaching the Word in a Sunday School class
 - ii. This might be women leading a women's Bible study during the week
 - iii. This might be men AND women teaching the Scriptures to young kiddos in children's church, or to older teens in the youth
 - 1. The teachers have a passion to teach God's Word thoroughly and accurately
 - a. So they devote many hours to studying, preparing, and praying over their lessons, each and every week
 - i. All that they might serve to equip the saints for the works of ministry
 - ii. The teachers are a gift from Jesus to his bride, the church
- c. But look at what Paul also says in the following verses...
 - i. These men and women serve to equip the saints for the work of ministry, BUT ALSO for building up the body of Christ...
 - 1. 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
 - a. Do you see what Paul is saying here?
 - i. Friends, the measure of mature manhood, or mature womanhood...
 - ii. The measure of how Christlike we are becoming in our stature...
 - 1. Is NOT just our knowledge of Jesus
 - 2. But it is ALSO our UNITY in our faith!
 - 2. As we grow in our knowledge of Christ, AND as we grow in our unity with one another...
 - a. THEN we will be on the road to spiritual maturity
 - b. THEN we will be able to stand firm and not be tossed to and fro by the winds and waves of false doctrine
 - c. THEN we will not get caught up in the cunning and craftiness of Satan and those who serve him
 - i. When we are finally able to speak the truth, IN LOVE, THEN we will begin to *"grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from 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."*
- d. Friends, I say all this as a word of caution to us here at Forest Hills
 - i. All praise to God, we have seen some good growth numerically over the past two years
 - 1. We've had some wonderful families and individuals come to be a part of our church family
 - ii. We've also had two wonderful years of harmony and peace, as we've walked in unity down the path that the Lord is laying out for us
 - 1. But my guess is that, for each of the one out of every ten churches that will split this decade, they also had good seasons of growth and unity and peace
 - a. They were all WALKING Jesus
 - b. They were all GATHERING with Jesus
 - i. In those seasons, Christ truly WAS all... and he was truly IN all

1. But at some point, they forgot that in Christ's Kingdom, there are no Jews and Greeks
 2. They forgot that in Christ's Kingdom, there are no Republicans and Democrats
 3. They forgot that in Christ's Kingdom, there are overly independent introverts and there are no overly excited extroverts
 - c. At some point, they forgot that Christ was in all, and that they were called to be a house united in him
 - i. So they likely stopped being humble and gentle toward one another
 - ii. They likely stopped being patient and bearing with one another in love
 - iii. They clearly stopped being eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
 1. And as a result, they split
 - a. Just as countless of churches will do again this year, and every year to come, they made a shipwreck of their faith
 - i. And they became just another sad statistic
 - ii. Another blemish on the face of the bride of Jesus
2. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 10:12,
 - a. ¹²*Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.*
 - i. The Kingdom of God will continue to stand, as long as we take heed of the Word of God
 - ii. Forest Hills Baptist Church will continue to stand, as long as we take heed of the Word of God
 1. May the Lord continue to knit our hearts together in love and in unity, as we remain EAGER to maintain the unity of the Spirit
 - a. And as we stand firm upon the truth that Christ is all, and Christ is IN all!