

Gospel Unity

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of his Church, the night before he "gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25), prayed for the unity of all those who would believe in him in response to the proclamation of the gospel (John 17:20-23).

And the apostle Paul urged the believers in Ephesus to live in a manner worthy of their calling, "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" (Ephesians 4:1-3).

We, the European Mission Fellowship, although we are not a church, take seriously both our Lord's prayer and the apostle's exhortation, and consider it our Christian duty to desire, strive for, and promote true gospel unity.

That unity is based on the true gospel and on the fundamental teachings of the Christian faith, as reflected in EMF's doctrinal basis (<https://www.europeanmission.org/what-we-believe>).

We recognise that among true Christians there are different opinions on secondary matters – that is to say, on matters not essential to Christian orthodoxy or to personal salvation, such as: the proper subjects and mode of baptism; the correct form of church government; the permanence or impermanence of certain manifestations of the Holy Spirit; different expressions of Christian worship; the exact nature of the events preceding and accompanying our Lord's glorious future coming; etc. (That doesn't mean that we accept as valid or even as secondary every position on these or other matters.)

True gospel unity is not (primarily) physical, structural, or denominational, but spiritual, dynamic, and 'transdenominational'; and we are not called upon to create it, but to maintain, nurture, and practise it.

We reject any so-called 'unity' that is not based on the gospel, on the fundamental teachings of the Christian faith, and on the mutual love of true brothers and sisters in Christ. We reject the so-called 'unity' of 'the Ecumenical Movement'. We cannot have spiritual fellowship with those who deny the gospel or any fundamental Christian teaching, and we regard it as our Christian duty to look out for, warn people against, and oppose false teachers and their false teaching.

We will endeavour to promote true gospel unity and to cultivate God-honouring relationships with churches, ministries, and organisations that are faithful to the gospel and to all the fundamental teachings of the Christian faith, both in their official statements and in practice.