

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY

Part 1 of 2

Introduction –

Christianity was never meant to be done alone as evidenced by the “30 One Anothers” in the Bible. This is why, God in His Word, proclaims that He set the lonely (solitaire, K.J.V.) into families, while the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land (Ps 68:6). Therefore, the days of the “Lone Ranger” Christian must come to an end! You can’t embrace the Head (Christ) without also embracing the Body (Church). They can’t be divorced from each other. Unfortunately we have a problem, and that is that we don’t always get along with each other. Sometimes we don’t even like each other ☺. Or as one person put it: “To live above with the saints we love will be glory. To live below with the saints we know is another story.” Getting along, however, is not an option. Today, in the first of two messages on “UNITY”, we will show why we MUST HAVE IT...

Phil 2:2 – “Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being ONE in spirit and purpose.”

*UNITY IS CRITICAL & ESSENTIAL...

1. JESUS PRAYED FOR IT

John 17:13, 20-21, 22-23 – “Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me – so that they may be ONE as we are one. ... MY PRAYER IS ... that all of them may be ONE, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. ... I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be ONE as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete UNITY to let the world know that you have sent me...”

- THE REAL LORD’S PRAYER
- FOUR REFERENCES TO “ONE”, “UNITY”
- THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE

Further Discussion:

1. What is meant by the bullet, “The Real Lord’s Prayer”
2. What was the main emphasis of His prayer?
3. What did He compare our unity to? Just how “one” is this?
4. Why is it critical that we get our act together and become one?

2. SATAN FIGHTS AGAINST IT

Luke 11:17 – “Any kingdom DIVIDED against itself will be ruined, and a house DIVIDED against itself will fall.”

- SATAN’S STRATEGY: DIVIDE & CONQUER

Further Discussion:

5. Satan is saying this (Jesus is). So, how can we say that this is Satan’s strategy?
6. Can you give any examples of how disunity brought to ruin plans, meetings, churches?

3. PAUL STRONGLY URGED IT

Eph 4:3,13 – “Make every effort to keep the UNITY of the Spirit ... until we all reach the UNITY of the Faith.”

- **MAKE EVERY EFFORT – POUR ALL YOUR RESOURCES**

Further Discussion:

7. Expound on “make every effort”.
8. What O.T. illustration did Pastor give that showed how war and destruction was averted because of this point?
9. Do you make every effort to keep unity, or do your efforts contribute more to disunity?

4. GOD USES IT – THE PROCESS

Eph 4:13 – “... until we all reach the UNITY of the Faith ... and become MATURE, attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

- **WITHOUT SPOT OR WRINKLE – AGITATION & HEAT**
- **AS IRON SHARPENS IRON – RUBBING, SPARKS, SMOOTH**

Further Discussion:

10. Once we’ve gone through the process of going from the “unity of the Spirit” to the “unity of the faith”, what does the Bible say this process will have produced in the Body of Christ?
11. What does iron rubbing against iron first produce? What do many believers do at this point?
12. Is it worth striving for this unity? (Refer to both points 4&5)

5. GOD GREATLY BLESSES IT

Psalms 133 – “How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in UNITY! ... For there the Lord bestows HIS BLESSING...”

Conclusion: In part 2 of this mini-series on unity, we will discuss **FIVE BLESSINGS** that come as a result of our walking in unity.