SPIRITUAL UNITY GLORIFIES GOD
ROMANS 15:4-6
A SUMMARY

THE DEFINITION OF SPIRITUAL UNITY:
The Application of the FULLFILLMENT of Christ's prayer to the Father in John 17:21 and the Ministry of the Holy Spirit according to 1 Corinthians 12:13 that involves laying aside ALL PERSONAL OPINIONS for BIBLICAL TRUTH and therefore uniting in mind and ministry in order to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to the dying world around us.
NOTE: True spiritual unity has NOTHING to do with the "ECUMENTICAL UNITY" that supposedly brings together every one from every faith for some common cause. (Prayer Caucus with Jews, Catholics, Muslims, Christians)
NOTE: The prayer of Christ (To be united) is fulfilled by the work of the Holy Spirit (in one body) at the point of one's salvation.
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SOME NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES ON SPIRITUAL UNITY
1 Corinthians 1:10
2 Corinthians 13:11
Ephesians 4:3
Philippians 1:27
1 Peter 2:8

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A BRIEF EXAMINATION OF TWO OF THE ABOVE PASSAGES

I. 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

A. "Speak the Same Thing"
1. The Point of Emphasis here is THE UNITY OF DOCTRINE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH.
2. Sound Doctrine is the foundation of all local church life.
   a. As illustrated by the Father and the Son – John 17:21-23
   b. As practiced by the early church – Acts 2:46,47
3. Sound Doctrine is that which unites all local church ministry.
   WARNING: WEAK DOCTRINE DISABLES A LOCAL CHURCH!
4. Sound Doctrine is the FIRST POINT of Personal and Ecclesiastical Separation – Romans 16:17,18 MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH ARE TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND SHOUND DOCTRINE AND THEN UNITE WITH OR SEPARATE FROM OTHERS BASED UPON THEIR DOCTRINE.

B. "No Divisions"
1. The Point of Emphasis here is that BELIEVERS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH ARE NOT TO BE DIVIDED BY OPINION that will almost always hinder the ministry of any local church.
2. Note the issue at Corinth as spelled out in verses 11-17. MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH ARE NOT TO LINE UP UNDER CERTAIN LEADERS WITHIN THE CHURCH, BUT UNDER THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!

C. "Perfectly Joined Together"
1. The Point of Emphasis here is PUTTING BACK TOGETHER THAT WHICH WAS BROKEN BY DIVISIONS.
2. "Joined Together" is a phrase that involves mending news, broken bones, tools, garments, joints, etc. MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH WHO FIND THEYARE DIVIDED ARE TO LABOR TO JOIN TOGETHER AGAIN FOR THE STRENGTH OF THE MINISTRY.

D. "In the Same Mind and the Same Judgment"

1. The Point of Emphasis here is MAINTAIN THE SAME THOUGHT ABOUT BELIEF, CONVICTIONS, STANDARDS AND BEHAVIOR REGARDING CHRISTIAN LIVING.

2. This will occur, NOT by one personally convincing another that certain matters are to be, but by yielding to the WORD OF GOD in all things. MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH ARE TO STUDY THE WORD OF GOD THOROUGHLY AND SUBMIT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT COMPLETELY, AND WHEN THAT IS ACCOMPLISHED, ALL THINKIING WILL BE THE SAME.

NOTE: The Word of God and the Holy Spirit are not divided. As EVERY BELIEVER of the LOCAL CHURCH submit to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit they will all come to the same belief and conviction about all things.

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION: WHERE THERE IS SPIRITUAL UNITY, GOD IS GLORIFIED.

II. PHILIPPIANS 1:27

A. "Stand Fast In One Spirit" (Personal Attitude)

1. Every believer in the Local Church is to have the Personal Attitude of Spiritual Unity.
2. Spiritual Unity among believers will result of victory over Spiritual Battles.
   a. It shows COMBNED STRENGTH in the face of adversaries
      -Vs. 28a
   b. It shows TRUE SALVATION before unbelievers
      -Vs, 28b
   c. It strengthens THE WILLINGNESS TO SUFFER for Christ
      -Vs. 29
   d. It enables UNITY IN THE SAME SPIRITUAL CONFLICTS without personal opinions
      -Vs. 30

B. "Striving together with One Mind for the Faith The Gospel."
(Personal Determination)

1. Every believer in the Local Church is to have the Personal Determination for Spiritual Unity against a common foe.

2. To "Strive Together" as a TEAM is A COMMAND…NOT AN OPTION for members of the Local Church. Thus believers are to STAY CLOSE to the ministry of the Local Church.
   a. To Learn Together
   b. To Encourage each other
   c. To Strengthen each other

3. To "Strive Together" as a TEAM for Biblical Truth
   a. Learn Biblical Truth Together
   b. Digest Bible Truth Together
   c. Proclaim Biblical Truth Together
   d. Defend Biblical Truth Together

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION: EACH INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER IS TO STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT AND ONE MIND!

LESSON: WHEN TRUE SPIRITUAL UNITY IS PRESENT, GOD WILL BE GLORIFIED. THIS IS TO BE THE EFFORT OF EACH MEMBER OF THE LOCAL CHURCH!