

“UNITY: A MANDATE FROM GOD”
EPHESIANS 4:1-6

INTRO: One of the things that brings instability and the lack of peace to a person, a church, a community or a nation is **DISUNITY!** In addition, one of the things Satan uses to disrupt lives of people on every level and in every institution is **DISUNITY!** We have just gone through a major national Presidential election and in some sense there appears to be **DISUNITY** that if not resolved will weaken America within and in our relationship with other nations of the world. **UNITY IS A MANDATE FROM GOD! IT IS NOT AN OPTION BUT IT IS WHAT HE EXPECTS, PARTICULARLY FROM HIS PEOPLE.** So let’s consider the concept of Biblical Unity and what it takes to achieve it in every level of life.

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DEFINITION OF BIBLICAL UNITY:

- 1) The Hebrew word “YACHAD” – “Alike” – “All At Once”
- 2) The Greek word “HENOTES” – “The state of being one in agreement and uniform.”
- 3) John Piper: “Unity includes affectionate love, not just sacrifice for those you don’t like.
- 4) The Definition: “The state of being in **ONE MIND** with others for the sake of accomplishing the will of God in the home, the church and the community.”

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I. THE PRIORITY OF UNITY

Seen in the Commandments of God

- A. 1 Corinthians 1:10
- B. Ephesians 4:3

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE PORTRAIT OF UNITY

Seen in the Institutions of God

- A. In the Family: The Unit itself - “Two become one”
– Genesis 2:24
- B. In the Government: The Mission itself – “A terror to evil”
– Romans 13:3
- C. In the Nations: The Borders – “Bounds of their habitation”
-Acts 17:26
- D. In the Church: The formation of the Holy Spirit – “One body”
– 1 Corinthians 12:13
- E. In the God-head: The oneness of God – “The Trinity”
– 1 John 5:7

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

Seen in the Word of God

OBSERVATIONS:

- 1) Unity is a Divine Concept
- 2)Unity will never be achieved apart from the application of biblical principles
- 3) Unity that is genuine agrees with God’s Truth
- 4) Unity, not division, is to be the goal of every Christian

THE PRINCIPLES OF UNITY IN EPHESIANS 4:1-3

- A. The Principle of Lowliness – Humility before God and others
- B. The Principle of Meekness – Without rebellion or retaliation
- C. The Principle of Longsuffering – Patience under prolonged provocation
- D. The Principle of Forbearing – Tolerating others while teaching the truth
- E. The Principle of Endurance – A constant effort to maintain unity

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. THE PLEASURE OF UNITY

Seen in the teaching of Scripture

- A. Psalm 133:1-3 – A refreshing experience
- B. 2 Corinthians 13:11 – The sense of God’s presence

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION/LESSON:

- 1) Satan will always attempt to disrupt and bring disunity.
- 2) The Holy Spirit always builds unity.
- 3) The Christian is to endeavor to create unity in every part of his life...home, church, community...which will bring the blessing of the Lord

“BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS: FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD.” Matthew 5:9

- 4) The Christian who creates DISUNITY is in a bad way with God

“THESE SIX THINGS DOETH THE LORD HATE: YEA, EVEN SEVEN ARE AN ABOMINATION TO HIM: A PROUD LOOK, A LYING TONGUE, AND HANDS THAT SHED INNOCENT BLOOD, AN HEART THAT DEVISETH WICKED IMAGINATIONS, FEET THAT BE SWIFT IN RUNNING TO MISCHIEF, A FALSE WITNESS THAT SPEAKETH LIES, AND HE THAT SOWETH DISCORD AMONG BROTHERN.”

Proverbs 6:16-20

- 5) Unity is taught in the Word of God but it begins in the mind of the TRUE BELIEVER who unites his/her thinking and lifestyle with the **SOLID DOCTRINE OF BIBLICAL TRUTH!**