

"A LESSON ON UNITY SEEN IN CHRISTMAS, CHRIST, COMMUNION AND CHRISTIAITY"

JOHN 17:17-23

INTRO: The messages of Christmas, Christ, Communion and Christianity could perhaps be many depending upon how one approaches the study of the scriptures. But one GREAT LESSON that is seen in the four is that of UNITY WITH OTHERS OF LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH! Disunity among believers is sinful and leads to more sinful practices including DISHONORING GOD and Unity among believers is righteous and leads to more righteous practices. THE CHOICE BETWEEN DISUNITY AND UNITY IS OUR PERSONAL CHOICE. WHAT CHOICE WILL YOU MAKE?

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I. THE LESSON OF UNITY SEEN IN CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS HAS ONE MESSAGE: THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

-Galatians 4:4,5

II. THE LESSON OF UNITY SEEN IN CHRIST

CHRIST HAD ONE MOTIVE: TO DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER

-John 4:27-34

III. THE LESSON OF UNITY SEEN IN COMMUNION

COMMUNION HAS ONE MEMORY: THE WORK OF CHRIST

-1 Corinthians 11:24,25

IV. THE LESSON OF UNITY SEEN CHRISTIANITY

CHRISTIAITY HAS ONE MIND: THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

-Philippians 1:27

OBSERVATIONS:

- 1) Christ prayed for Unity among His family which was granted through the Building of the Body of Christ – 1 Corinthians 12:13
- 2) Christ prayed for Unity among His family so as to show true Unity that the world may “BELIEVE” that the Father sent Him (John 17:21) and that the world may “KNOW” that the Father sent Him (John 17:23). **Two expressions of CHRISTIAN UNITY in three verses. Quite Significant!**
- 3) Scripture teaches that Unity among true believers is a requirement from God
-1 Corinthians 1:10
- 4) Each believer is to ENDEAVOR TO MAINTAIN UNITY within the Body of Christ – Ephesians 4:3

CHALLENGE:

As we approach Communion tonight and as we approach Christmas within the next few weeks, let us all reflect the great unity that is between the Father and Son through developing and maintaining UNITY with others of like-precious faith for the Glory of God, the Honor of Christ, the Edification of other believers, and a testimony to unbelievers.

REMEMBER: DISUNITY DISHONORS GOD BUT UNITY HONORS GOD! TO WHICH WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE?