

UNITY, AN INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION

I. Divine Standard of Unity

A. Is based on the teaching of two verses of scripture, Eph. 4:1-6 and Acts 4:11,12.

B. Define: Unity- a oneness, acting together as one.

C. Basis of Unity of the Spirit:

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| 1. One God | Unity in Worship | Eph. 4:4,6 |
| 2. One Lord Jesus Christ | Authority | |
| 3. One Faith | Message | |
| 4. One Baptism | Practice | |
| 5. One Body | Organization | |
| 6. One Hope | Desire | |
| 7. One Spirit | Life | |
| 8. One Name | Allegiance | Acts 4:11,12 |

II. It is an Individual Obligation to Endeavor to Keep the Unity.

Eph. 4:3- This verse calls for each Christian to make a positive contribution toward Unity. Peace must be maintained to achieve unity. However peace cannot be purchased and truth sacrificed, Mt. 10:34-39.

III. Why is Unity Within the Church Important?

- A. If the Church is going to send out a plea of unity to the denominational world, we must be maintaining unity ourselves.
- B. If we do not have peace and unity within the church, then our strength and influence against false doctrine is impaired.
- C. To successfully accomplish its mission, the church depends upon internal cooperation of its members. Division (Disunity) makes this co-operation and thus accomplishment of the Divine mission impossible.
- D. Our worship to God is not acceptable if we do not have the proper attitude one toward another.
 - 1. Unity is needed to add power to prayer, Mt. 18:19,20.
 - 2. Unified prayer solidifies the hope of forgiveness, Mt. 6:12, 14-15.
 - 3. Our sacrifices and services to the Lord are unacceptable if we are not at peace with our brethren, Mt. 5:22-26.

IV. Four Things That Destroy Unity in the Church.

- A. Selfishness- (self-willed)- Phil. 2:3-5, a headstrong desire to have our own way.
- B. Speculative Teaching- Titus 3:9-11, 2 Tim. 2:14, 2 Pet. 1:16 - 2:2. (not opinion)
- C. Uncontrolled Tongues- Jas. 3:5-12
- D. Being Easily Provoked- I Cor. 13:4,5

V. What Can be Done to Promote Unity?

- A. A willingness to give over in matters of judgement. This will take an attitude of generosity and self-sacrifice (as seen in Phil. 2:3-5), Rom. 12:3-5.
- B. Unity in faith and teaching- we should speak the same things. I Cor. 1:10
- C. Be at peace with all men (insofar as possible), Rom. 12: 18-21.
- D. The characteristics of love will enforce unity, I Cor. 13: 4-7
- E. Because you love the Lord and His church, you will refuse to allow the Body to be divided. (I Cor. 1:10- "let there be no divisions among you.)

Conclusion- By practicing I Cor. 1:10 we can promote and preserve unity.

1. Speak the same things.
2. Allow no divisions among you.
3. Be perfected together in the same mind and judgement.