

*Unity That
Commands a Blessing*

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 5

Chapter 1 7

THE GLORY OF ONENESS

Chapter 2 12

BLESSINGS THAT TRIUMPH OVER DISCORD

Chapter 3 19

UNITY REVEALS THE LOVE OF GOD

CONCLUSION 26

INTRODUCTION

Try to picture the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit before they created the angels and human race. There was such unity among the Trinity. In fact, throughout all time and eternity, they have had perfect unity because of their nature, their essence, and their characteristics.

The three Persons of the Trinity are coexistent, coequal, and coeternal (Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14). The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, yet each one is true Deity. This triune God—who is *one* God—is the foundation of the Christian faith and life. In John 8:58, Jesus declared to the Pharisees, “Before Abraham was, I am,” echoing God’s declaration to Moses in Exodus 3:14. And today through His still, small voice, the Holy Spirit bears witness of this truth to each person who will receive Jesus as his Savior.

Satan and his demons have consistently

attacked the character of God as they seek to destroy unity among Christians. Lucifer was kicked out of heaven for violating the unity of the Trinity, and a third of the angels fell with him. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit had agreed and proceeded to create the human race. Their purpose was to reveal a perfect plan of unity and oneness and to show God's character in the angelic contest.

Never has one member of the Godhead exalted Himself above another. They think right because they *are* right. Their plan is perfect because they are perfect. The Son sacrificed Himself of His own volition (John 10:17). With an attitude of love, He gave Himself for others by laying down His life. With that same attitude, the Father gave us His only Son, and the Holy Spirit leads and encourages us to have the same mind: to be willing to lay down our lives for the brethren so we can reveal the unity of the Trinity to lost souls (1 John 3:16). This booklet will show that when we have this kind of unity, God cannot help but command a blessing.

Chapter One
THE GLORY OF ONENESS

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

“As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee*, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

“And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, *that they may be made perfect in one: and that the world may know that thou hast sent me*, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

“Father, I will that they also, whom thou

hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

“O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:17-26).

Unity is such a precious quality among believers. I am not referring to a superficial unity, but the unity of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:3 tells us to endeavor to keep the “unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

As Christians, we have the potential to have the same kind of unity that God has in the Trinity. Jesus prayed for this in John 17. He prayed not only for the disciples at that time, but also for all those who would come to believe the Word of God. He wanted them to be one as the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are One. “As I am in thee, and You in Me, that they may be one as we are one that the world may know that You sent Me.” This is unity.

Some argue that Jesus was simply a ‘yes’ man on earth, who did not think for Himself, be-

cause He only did the will of His Father (John 5:19, 30). But we know He is the Creator of the universe, and He holds all things together by the Word of His power (Hebrews 1:3). Others have implied that the Holy Spirit is merely a servant to the Father and the Son with no real identity. In fact, the three are One, but they are also very different individually. The Father sent the Son because He so loved the world. The Son came to earth because He had the same love as the Father. The Holy Spirit reveals the plan of salvation to the hearts of men because He has the same love as the Father and the Son: That is the unity of love.

Unity Never Divides

Can Christ be divided? The question is asked in 1 Corinthians 1:13. No, He cannot. Unity never divides, and it never criticizes. If someone must be addressed in the table of organization, it is done privately, alone, decently and in order. Godly unity is so unique. Yet, as members in particular in God's Church, we can be as one as God is one.

“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind” (Philippians 2:2). This means that we

have the same Word of God for the content of our thinking with the same love, in one accord.

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Unity Eliminates Competition

A great picture of unity is found in the fact that the Son only did what the Father told Him to do. Never has the Holy Spirit done anything to glorify Himself. The Spirit glorifies the Son (John 16:14); the Son glorifies the Father. That is how unity works. No competition, just absolute oneness in unity.

What goes wrong when a Christian marriage falls apart? Christ is in the husband; Christ is in the wife; and Christ is in the children. But, the problem comes when they don't keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Few people really understand godly unity. We can never experience more happiness than when we have God's unity. For example, I initiate to my wife in the unity of the Spirit and she responds in the unity of the Spirit. We pray in

the unity of the Spirit. We build each other up in this amazing unity that can neither be divided nor cause division.

Chapter Two

BLESSINGS THAT TRIUMPH OVER DISCORD

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

“It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

“As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore” (Psalm 133).

When a church has God’s unity, He commands it to be blessed. Just as He commanded creation, and just as He commanded the stars and the moon and the sun to shine, God has commanded the Body of Christ to be blessed according to oneness. If the unity of the Spirit is in a marriage, God will command that couple to be blessed with life, “even life for evermore.” He

commands it.

In Acts 1:14, the disciples with Mary and the brethren were with one accord, praying in one place. In Acts 2:1, when Pentecost was fully come, they were with one accord in one place. It is always that way when a blessing comes. In Acts 4:32, those who believed had one heart and one soul. "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all" (Acts 4:33).

They had great power with great grace because they had amazing unity and oneness. Satan despises for us to be one as Christ, the Father, and the Spirit are one. If there is anything that is not right between you and someone else, get it right and keep it right, so that God can command your relationship to be blessed.

Things That God Hates

The following passage describes the characteristics of a wicked man and names seven things he does that are an abomination to God:

"Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord. Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea,

seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a 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 brethren" (Proverbs 6:14-19).

These verses begin and end with a common characteristic of wickedness: sowing discord. People who are living in an internal conspiracy can't wait to sow discord. They love to sow discord. They love to separate people by saying something negative to another party. They have an internal conspiracy that promotes competition in the flesh.

When an internal conspiracy is produced in an individual, the emotions control the volition, because the mind is not thinking with God. As a result, the conscience is not a grace conscience; the self-consciousness is not occupied with Christ; and inside are emotional problems as well as problems of identity. This is an internal conspiracy.

People who are in such a conspiracy may seem to be getting along well with certain people. But, they do not have the same love, they are not like-minded, and they are not of one accord.

They lack the unity that can only come through the Cross of Calvary, where Christ “gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world according to the will of God and our Father” (Galatians 1:4).

Made Mature by Preaching

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13).

The pastor-teacher is given so we can all become mature, so we can do the work of the ministry, so we will be perfectly one as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one. By that, we can all come in the unity of the faith and enter into Christ’s fullness.

When we pray for one another, we have the unity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, along with grace, mercy, and love. We have unity in our prayers for those who are in need: for those who are sick, who need reconcil-

iation, who need deliverance. We have unity in our faith because of the Word; therefore, we pray with amazing unity.

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby [demons] lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:14-16). We help to increase the Body of Christ through evangelism and by edifying one another in love.

How Satan Gets In

When there is no unity, Satan has access to come in and cause division (Ephesians 4:27). Disunity gives him a place of influence. The first thing he does is accuse (Revelation 12:10). The second thing he does is keep on accusing. The third thing he does is sow discord. He does that by sending careless words through the demons of the air (Ecclesiastes 10:20).

As demons transfer messages through each other to us, Satan and his armies actually have unity. In his ministry of accusation, he fashions a form of unity as they attack, separate, sow discord, and divide. That is what Satan is about, according to John 10:10. And in Job 41:16, he allows no air—meaning no separation—to come between him and his demons. He enters into this unusual unity in his kingdom of darkness.

Having Joy by Being Likeminded

When Pentecost came, there was perfect unity among the disciples. Even in persecution, they went back to the upper room and had perfect unity. For us to experience the blessing of the bond of unity in the Body of Christ, all we have to do is fulfill the joy of the Lord by having the same love, being of one accord and of one mind (Philippians 2:2), and being comforted as we are knit together by the Spirit in love (Colossians 2:2).

Oh, how Satan hates this! He hates unity.

In Judges 20:11, when they went up against Gibeah, all of Israel operated as one man. In Joshua 23:10, as one man, Israel chased a thousand. And when we operate in that kind of unity, God commands a blessing. He will supply

what we need. He will command a blessing to give us our hearts' desire. He will command a blessing as we reach out to 220 countries. God will command a blessing as He heals the sick. God will command a blessing in our finances. God will command a blessing. All we have to do is keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Chapter Three

UNITY REVEALS THE LOVE OF GOD

Picture the Son of God praying this beautiful prayer in John 17 just before He was led to the Cross:

“Father, we have to talk about something,” He said. “You know how You are in Me, and how I am in You? I pray that those who will believe through the Word would be one, perfectly one, in us. Let’s give them the glory you gave Me so that they may be one as we are one” (verse 22).

Then Jesus prayed, “If they are one as We are one, the world will know that You have sent Me. They will know the difference because by nature, people are not like this. Then, the world will know that just as You, Father, have loved Me, You also love them. They will have the unity of faith and the unity of love.”

One Baptism

All of us who are born again have been baptized by one Spirit into the union of the Body of Jesus Christ. You are seated above with Jesus (Ephesians 2:6), and so am I. You are washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of Jesus Christ, and so am I (1 Corinthians 6:11). You have the Holy Spirit and the love of God in you, and so do I. You have received mercy and grace, and so have I. You have been forgiven of all your sins, and so have I. Satan cannot bring up a single thing against any of us, and neither can anyone else.

We have the unity of being forgiven, of having His Blood cleanse us from all sin, and of having our consciences purged. We have the unity of power in prayer, unity in supplication, unity in intercession, and unity in worship. We already have amazing unity; all we have to do is to *keep* it. So, we walk in the Light as He is in the Light.

The Power of Pentecost

Every Christian can have so much peace in his life—peace that flows like a river. He whose mind is stayed upon God shall have perfect peace. Whenever anything arises in our hearts,

God's people can bring those thoughts into obedience to the mind of Christ. The Holy Spirit can love through us. He can take over so that there is full and mature unity. What took place at Pentecost can keep on happening as we learn to live in the "acts" of the Holy Spirit.

In Matthew 18:20, Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." But He also said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth" (Matthew 12:30).

He goes on in Matthew 12 to talk about blasphemy of the Son and of the Spirit. Blasphemy against the Spirit means to reject Jesus Christ as Savior, because His is the only name by which men might be saved. Such rejection is unforgivable in this life and in the one to come (Matthew 12:31). Blasphemy against the Son, however, is when Christians claim to represent Christ but are divided against other believers. You and I represent Christ as ambassadors. If we are divided, it is blasphemy against the Son. Can we have different gifts? Yes. Is there diversity in the Body? Absolutely. Diversity is not division nor indifference. Diversity means we use what God has given us to edify other's portions.

Overcomers' Rewards

“Whosoever therefore shall *confess* me before men, him will I also confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33).

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels” (Revelation 3:5).

These verses are so beautiful! In the original Greek text, “confess” in Matthew 10:32 is *homologeo*. Jesus was saying that if we show others the precise nature of God, then, in our time of need, He will show us God’s nature precisely. With that, we can reveal God’s nature to each other, and we will reveal it to the world. We are not filled with confusion; we are filled with oneness. We confess the nature of God with the life of God because of the blessing of God through the grace of God and the love of God, to edify one another through God.

Now, in Revelation 3:5, the Son comes to the Father and says, “Father, I want to confess this

believer before You. He confessed Me before men, so I am going to dress him in white raiment, and he will reign with Me over nations” (see Revelation 2:26).

The white raiment is special illuminating brightness that will cover our glorified bodies, and all because we “confessed” or revealed His nature, His Word, and His heart before men.

Standing Fast in Oneness

I don’t want even a little thing to come between me and another Christian. I want to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. If someone doesn’t like me, that’s all right. If he disagrees with me, that is fine. The Word tells us God will command a blessing, even life for evermore, when we stand fast in one Spirit, serving one another in the faith of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:27).

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). In the Greek text, “you” is plural, but “wholly” is singular. This is where unity in marriage comes in. Our spirits are set apart. Our souls and our bodies become one. Jesus Christ

controls us, loves us, speaks through us, and we become one as the Trinity is one. If our spirits, souls, and bodies are sanctified by the Word of God, then we are one as the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are one.

Do you have perfect oneness in your home? Every Christian who loves the Lord Jesus Christ loves oneness. I am not talking about compromise; I am talking about oneness that comes through the Cross.

The Cross Is the Bond of Peace

“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

“(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself”

(Philippians 3:17-21).

Paul's instruction was to mark those who did not follow his way of living. He called them "enemies of the Cross." The only way a Christian who hears the Word of God will not be one with others is if he is an enemy of the Cross. When I take up my cross, I am dead and buried with Him, and Christ is alive in me.*

The secret is in taking up our cross (Luke 9:23). When we take up our cross, we keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. But for those who do not take up their cross, their flesh remains alive. We love them, but we cannot have godly unity with them because they are of Adam.

Think of the amazing revival that could take place if Christians were one as the Trinity is one. Don't make little sarcastic remarks on the side. Stop getting in your little digs about people. Don't do it! Purpose, instead, to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**For more about the subject of taking up your cross, read I Will Glory in the Cross, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1999.*

CONCLUSION

Where there is godly unity, the only thing you will want to say is that which will edify the hearer and give him grace. You want to build up, edify, and give grace to people. The Holy Spirit can glorify Jesus Christ in that relationship (Ephesians 4:29).

Some Christians have become so familiar with oneness. If only they understood what a pastor goes through and how it grieves the heart of God when there is division or a spirit of disunity between Christians.

If we purpose to have the oneness of Christ in our hearts each day, we will see the most wonderful blessings we can ever experience. We will do everything we can do to be one with people without compromising the Word of God. We love each other and pray for each other, and as a result, we will have many years of the most amazing unity we can imagine.

We don't "do" anything to get this unity. We

simply keep it—by abiding in Christ and letting His Word abide in us.

Father, we love You, we praise You, and we give You all the honor. It is so healthy to be one in spirit, soul, and body—to love each other as Christ loves the Church and to love You by fulfilling Your eternal purpose. We are so grateful to You, and we know that we will expand our coasts and receive even greater blessings because of the life that descends from heaven. We thank You and praise You in Christ's name. Amen.