

Christian Unity In The Church Today
Sam Kirui
Community Christian Church, Durant OK

Revelation 2:1-7 New International Version (NIV)

To the Church in Ephesus

¹ “To the angel^[a] of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶ But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Footnotes:

- a. Revelation 2:1 Or *messenger*; also in verses 8, 12 and 18

1 Corinthians 1:10-16 New International Version (NIV)

A Church Divided Over Leaders

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,^[a] in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹ My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹² What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas^[b]”; still another, “I follow Christ.”

¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t remember if I baptized anyone else.)

Footnotes:

- a. 1 Corinthians 1:10 The Greek word for *brothers and sisters (adelphoi)* refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God’s family; also in verses 11 and 26; and in 2:1; 3:1; 4:6; 6:8; 7:24, 29; 10:1; 11:33; 12:1; 14:6, 20, 26, 39; 15:1, 6, 50, 58; 16:15, 20.
- b. 1 Corinthians 1:12 That is, Peter

Christian Unity begins at The Cross where we are reconciled to God and each other!

5 W's of Christian Unity

1. What is Christian Unity?
2. Who is responsible for bringing about Christian Unity to the Church?
3. Where is Christian Unity present or absent in the Church?
4. When do/should we exercise Christian Unity?
5. Why does Christian Unity matter in the Church (Why is it important?)

How can we increase or heighten Christian Unity in the Church Today?

1. Pray for Unity within the Church
2. Pursue and practice it by being at peace with others and living a holy life
3. Prevent satan from sowing seeds of discord and discouragement by staying alert and asking the Lord to show us when the enemy tries to divide us

2 Corinthians 5:17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

How can we be reconciled with God?

Acts 2:37-47 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The Ingathering

³⁷Now when they heard *this*, they were ^[a]pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “^[b]Brethren, ^[c]what shall we do?” ³⁸Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “^[d]Be saved from this perverse generation!” ⁴¹So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand ^[e]souls. ⁴²They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and ^[f]to prayer.

⁴³^[g]Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and ^[h]signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all those who had believed ^[i]were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread ^[j]from house to house, they were taking their ^[k]meals together with gladness and ^[l]sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding ^[m]to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Footnotes:

- a. Acts 2:37 Or *wounded in conscience*
- b. Acts 2:37 Lit *Men brothers*
- c. Acts 2:37 Or *what are we to do*
- d. Acts 2:40 Or *Escape*
- e. Acts 2:41 I.e. persons
- f. Acts 2:42 Lit *the prayers*
- g. Acts 2:43 Lit *fear was occurring to every soul*
- h. Acts 2:43 Or *attesting miracles*
- i. Acts 2:44 One early ms does not contain *were* and *and*
- j. Acts 2:46 Or *in the various private homes*

- k. Acts 2:46 Lit *food*
- l. Acts 2:46 Or *simplicity*
- m. Acts 2:47 Lit *together*

John 17:11 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me,^[a] that they may be one as We *are*.

Footnotes:

- a. John 17:11 NU-Text and M-Text read *keep them through Your name which You have given Me*.

Ephesians 4:3-6 New International Version (NIV)

³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:11-13 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

John 13:34-35 New Living Translation (NLT)

³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

Matthew 28:18-20 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,^[a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Footnotes:

- a. 28:19 Or *all peoples*.

John 10:27 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

1 Peter 4:10-11 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹ Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

John 10:16 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁶ I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

Hebrews 12:14 New Living Translation (NLT)

A Call to Listen to God

¹⁴ Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.

1 Peter 5:8 New Living Translation (NLT)

⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

New International Version (NIV)

Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

New King James Version (NKJV)

New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson.

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

New Living Translation (NLT)

Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation.