

Fundamentals Of The Church

Unity (I Co 1:10)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
 - b. Everyone looks great this "Easter Sunday"
 - i. I'm thankful for people thinking of the death, burial, and resurrection today thought I wish they did so more often.
 1. **Ga 4:9-10**
2. Series of lessons on the "Fundamentals Of The Church"
 - a. The building blocks to a faithful relationship with God.
3. We just finished looking at lessons on the "Acts of Worship"
 - a. Prayer, Singing, Lord's Supper, Preaching, Giving...
4. We are going to look this morning at the most "misused" religious word today "Unity."
 - a. People today when asked what unity means will give just about every kind of answer the most common being...
 - i. As Stephen Curkpatrick put it unity is "...Christian denominations and movements coming together in various forums to affirm their shared Christian faith and witness..." (<http://www.cctc.edu.au/unity.html>)
5. However this definition is not found in the Bible at all.
 - a. Unity in the Bible is defined by Paul inspired by God in **I Co 1:10**.
 - i. "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the **name of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that you all **speak the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions among you**, but that you be **perfectly joined together** in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment**." [emphasis mine]
6. So with that in mind let us examine this most precious expectation of God's children by God.
 - a. We will do this by looking at...
 - i. First what unity is not.
 - ii. Then what unity is.

I. **Biblical Unity Is Not...**

- A. Unity is not "all are saved"
 1. There are going to be lost souls in eternal damnation.
 - i. **Lk 9:25** "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"
 - ii. **Mt 25:33, 41** "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the **goats on the left**. 41 ...He will also say to those **on the left hand**, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels' [emphasis mine]
 - iii. **II Th 1:8-9** "in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power"

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2. There are going to be saved souls going to heaven.
 - i. **Jn 10:9** "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."
 - ii. **Mt 25:33-34** "And He will set the **sheep on His right hand**, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those **on His right hand**, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'"
 - iii. **Ro 8:23-24** "Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?"
- B. Unity is not "majority rules"
 1. There is not vote to see what is right or wrong!!!
 - i. To many religious groups have to gather and then vote to see if something is right or wrong.
 - a. Homosexuality, abortion, priestly marriage, salvation...
 - ii. Just because someone votes something as ok does not make it so.
 - iii. People have brought up Acts 15 commonly called the "Jerusalem Council" They say look here a vote was taken to see if something was right or wrong.
 - a. First let it be clear no vote was taken.
 1. **Ac 15:6** "Now the apostles and elders came together to **consider this matter.**"
 - b. Second they weighed the external evidence ie experiences of Peter, Paul, Barnabus.
 1. **Ac 15:7-12**
 - c. Third they checked to see if the external evidence went with the internal evidence ie the scriptures.
 1. **Ac 15:13-18**
 - d. Fourth they based their findings not on vote but on the evidence of scripture which is evident by the Holy Spirit agreeing with them.
 1. **Ac 15:28** "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things"
 - iv. If the brethren had simply voted and come up wrong the Holy Spirit would not have been in agreement with them. He is only in agreement with the Word of God.
 - a. Which brings me to...

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2. There is no interpretation brought forth from the Word of God.
 - i. In other words there is only truth or one thought that is possible from the Bible, there cannot be more than one "interpretation."
 - ii. We have all heard it said "that is your interpretation."
 - a. If the Bible is truth and it is.
 1. **Jn 17:17** "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."
 - b. If truth cannot set forth different interpretations and it cannot.
 1. **I Co 1:10** "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."
 2. **Jn 12:48** "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."
 - c. Then the Bible cannot set forth interpretations.
 - iii. What does that mean for unity?
 - a. It means we better know what is right and we can on all salvation issues.
 1. **Jn 8:32** "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
 - iv. That doesn't mean we can know everything.
 - a. There are things we do not have all the information on.
 1. At what point in time Satan fell, or on which day did God create the angels...
 - v. **Dt 29:29** "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those **things which are revealed** belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." [emphasis mine]
- C. Unity is not "accepting of division"
 1. If denomination/division was ok why did Christ pray for unity?
 - i. **Jn 17:20-21** "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."
 2. If denomination/division is ok why did Paul teach against it?
 - i. **I Co 1:10** "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be **no divisions among you**, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."
 3. If denomination/division is ok why is there only one church in the Bible?
 - i. **Ep 4:4** "There is **one body** and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling" [emphasis mine]
 - ii. **Ep 1:22-23** "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the **church**, 23 **which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." [emphasis mine]

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II. Biblical Unity Is...

- A. In the Word of God
 1. The Bible is God's Word.
 - i. **II Ti 3:16-17** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
 2. We are all to obey God's Word.
 - i. **Jn 14:15, 21-24** "If you love Me, keep My commandments...21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."
 - ii. **Mt 7:21** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
 3. Therefore God's Word is what we all should obey and thus be united in.
- B. In the doctrine
 1. Is doctrine important?
 - i. You cannot have God in your life without doctrine.
 - a. **II Jn 9** "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son."
 - ii. You cannot walk with God without doctrine.
 - a. **Am 3:3** "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"
 - iii. You cannot walk with each other without doctrine then.
 - a. **I Jn 1:7** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
 2. Thus doctrine is what we all should look to, to be united in.
- C. Based on love
 1. Love for God.
 - i. **Lk 10:27** "So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"
 - ii. **Jn 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments."
 2. Love for the brethren.
 - i. **I Jn 5:2-3** "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."

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CONCLUSION

1. Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success." (<http://tinyurl.com/3eddhmo>)
 - a. As one Flock, we are gathered together.
 - b. As one Family, we dwell together.
 - c. As one Body, we are joined together.
 - d. As one Temple, we are framed together.
 - e. As one household, we are built together.
 - f. As one Kingdom, we are to strive together.
 - g. As one Church, we worship together. (Don't remember where I got this)
 - i. What a wonderful depiction of the biblically beautiful unity of the church.
2. Invitation: