

The Bible's Guide For Unity

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-7

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

- 1. From the practical viewpoint, unity is most utilized in the local congregation and this is also the place where most dangers exist.**
 - A. It is not practical to think of fellowship or unity on a brotherhood basis. I can do very little about such unity.**
 - 1) But I can do my part in the local church and with my brethren. This should be our attitude concerning Bible unity.**
- 2. Some may be familiar with the term “ecumenical (e-cu-men-ical) movement.” This movement attempted to promote unity on a national or world-wide basis and tried to include everyone on the basis: “Just agree to disagree.”**
 - A. The result: Compromise that included every doctrinal position except truth; every immoral position except morality; and accepted every view of faith except faithfulness.**

What Does the Bible Teach About Unity?

1. The following scriptures show us what the Bible teaches concerning unity.

John 17:20-21;

Romans 12:16;

Romans 15:5

2 Corinthians 13:11

- A. It would take a heart of stone not to be moved by these passages.

Such Unity Requires A Standard

1. It is as true in the spiritual realm as in the physical:
 - A. Time, Law, etc.
2. A standard requires submission: Any law is good only as it is obeyed.

Psalms 119:104-105

Psalms 40:8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."

3. Some attempt to set up unrealistic standards:
 - A. Can do what we feel is pleasing to God (Matthew 7:21)
 - B. Letting our conscience determine right and wrong (Acts 23:1)
 - C. Proposing to just "let Jesus be our standard" but one often means by this: "love everyone" and "don't be critical of anyone."
 - 1) Elements of compromise seek to destroy the force of truth and replace it with a spirit of permissiveness toward error.

The Bible Is Our Standard

1. The words of Jesus must be obeyed. He has ALL authority and therefore in order to have Bible unity we must abide in His teaching.

Matthew 24:35

John 8:32

John 15:3

Psalm 119:110

Psalm 130

Psalm 160

1 Peter 1:25

Hebrews 4:12

2 Timothy 3:16-17

John 12:48

Some Have Not Learned the Importance of Listening to God

1. **Bible unity is only achieved in the keeping of the truth of God's word, however, some have not learned the importance of listening to God, letting Him be the true source of unity by truth.**

- A. **Nadab and Abihu:**

Leviticus 10:1-2 Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

- B. **Uzzah:**

2 Samuel 6:6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.

- C. **Today:**

2 John 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.

2. **We must never seek unity at all costs. Some seek unity regardless of the truth.**

- A. **We MUST seek unity based on the truth!**

Unity in Practice

1. **The church of the Lord is certainly encouraged and commanded to have unity.**

1 Corinthians 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. **We must exhibit a genuine care and concern for Christ and our brethren before unity can be realized.**

Philippians 2:1-4

3. **Love is a necessary ingredient in possessing Bible unity.**

1 John 4:7-8, 20-21

4. **The Jerusalem church proved the possibility and blessings of unity.**

Acts 2:42-47; 4:32

5. **The divine pattern for Bible unity has been established. The question is: Do men even care? Will it be given the weight and importance that it deserves?**

Ephesians 4:1-7

- A. **One body - unity of organization**
- B. **One spirit - unity of guidance**
- C. **One hope - unity of aspiration**
- D. **One Lord - unity of authority**
- E. **One faith - unity of hope**
- F. **One baptism - unity of practice and salvation**
- G. **One God - unity of worship**

- 1) **All must stay focused on the Bible teaching of unity.**

Is It Possible For Us To Have Unity?

1. This would be like asking: “Is it possible for all men to be saved?”
Yes, but not all WANT to be saved. Not all are willing to repent.
“IF”
2. So it is with unity.
 - A. Not all are willing to repent and submit to the authority of Christ.
3. **Jesus said:** “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)
 - A. There can be no unity if we fail to respect this message.

Conclusion

1. There is no plea for “peace at any price.”
2. Our primary consideration is to do the will of God. Unity and peace will then be the result in order to honor Him.
3. May we all strive to put God and others first in our life so that we can remain focused on His will while teaching and exhorting one another.

Place

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