

UNITY – UNITED IN CHRIST

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy^[a] of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, **I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, -**
Philippians 1:27 - English Standard Version

² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. - *Philippians 2:2 - English Standard Version*

1. Christian unity is based on a shared life in Jesus Christ

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave^[a] nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. - *Galatians 3:27-28 English Standard Version*

⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. - *Romans 12:5 English Standard Version*

2. Christian unity is expressed by our common love, common purpose and common mission.

*“Christian unity is that **unique grace of the Holy Spirit** which allows believers from all ethnicities, nationalities, personalities, and backgrounds to be of one heart, mind, and spirit in our love for Jesus Christ and in our commitment to the gospel. When believers live in unity, it reveals the life-changing power of the gospel to a watching world.”*

³² Now the full number of those who believed **were of one heart and soul**, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but **they had everything in common**. ³³ And **with great power** the apostles were giving their

testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and **great grace** was upon them all.

- *Acts 4:32-33*

3. Christian unity is important because it is a major factor in our witness to the world, so that they may believe in Jesus Christ

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ **that they may all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, **so that the world may believe that you have sent me**. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, **that they may be one even as we are one**,²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, **so that the world may know that you sent me** and loved them even as you loved me. - *John 17:20-23*

³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

³¹ The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. ³² Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me.... ³⁷ If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; ³⁸ but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” - *John 10:30-38 English Standard Version*

⁴ Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me.

⁵ I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing. - *John 15:4-5 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*

When Brothers Dwell in Unity

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

¹ Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!^[a]

² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore. - *Psalm 133: 1-3*

'O for more of this rare virtue! Not the love which comes and goes, but that which dwells, not that spirit which separates and secludes, but that which dwells together; not the mind that is all for debate and difference, but that which dwells together in unity.' – CH Spurgeon

- **In the sight and perspective of God, it is a wonderful thing for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity. As it is true for families, it is even more so for spiritual relationships.**

And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him. - *Leviticus 8:12 KJVS*

⁵ I will be to Israel like a refreshing dew from heaven. Israel will blossom like the lily; it will send roots deep into the soil like the cedars in Lebanon. ⁶ Its branches will spread out like beautiful olive trees, as fragrant as the cedars of Lebanon. ⁷ My people will again live under my shade. They will flourish like grain and blossom like grapevines. They will be as fragrant as the wines of Lebanon. - *Hosea 14:5-7 NLT*

Unity in the Body of Christ

4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ **eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—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 4:1-6 (ESV)

¹³ until we all attain to the **unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God**, to mature manhood,^[a] to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, -
Ephesians 4:13 English Standard Version

- **Spiritual unity should be the norm for the church when its members are under the control of the Holy Spirit and so we are instructed to do everything to keep (guard,) the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.**
- **Unity does not mean we agree on everything. But it means we do not allow the things we may disagree on to bring about division. Because we are on a journey...and our knowledge is progressive. I know more today about certain things than I did last year and so will you.**
- **Knowledge is good and our disagreements sometimes stem from what I think I know so well and you don't know. However we need to recognise that no matter how much you know the scripture says what we know is in part, a reflection of the whole and it will pass away so hold on to it lightly. We are encouraged to choose love over knowledge.**

⁸ **Love never ends.** As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; **as for knowledge, it will pass away.** ⁹ **For we know in part** and we prophesy in part,¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass

away..... ¹² **For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.** - 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 English Standard Version

Concerning Food Sacrificed to Idols

8 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up (to bear oneself loftily and be proud) while love builds up. (edifies, encourages one to grow to his full stature) ² Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. ³ But whoever loves God is known by God -1 Corinthians 8:1-3 New International Version

- 1. Unity is a gift from God.-***
- 2. Unity is a uniquely Christian adornment.***
- 3. Unity is most opposed by pride and self-interest***
- 4. Unity does not mean uniformity.***
- 5. Unity grows when it is stretched, pressured, and even threatened.***
- 6. Unity glorifies God and attracts unbelievers.***