

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:10  
Topic: Unity  
Study First Corinthians  
Week 2 of 3  
Series 3

River of Life Church  
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## The Power of Unity

Unity is a very powerful force. Genesis 11:1-6 tells a story about a group of individuals (albeit misdirected) who came together for a specific purpose to accomplish a certain task. *“Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. 3 Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. 4 And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” 5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.” Please note, these were not necessarily believers, and their intentions were not exactly godly, but the net result was they got God’s attention. This highlights the significance of what happens when a group of individuals come together for a specific purpose; there seems to be a force that carries them.*

Point to ponder: If unity gets God’s attention when we are doing the wrong things, what would happen when doing the right things? Psalm 133:1-3 *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 2. It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. 3. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion for there the Lord commanded the blessings- Life forevermore.”* Look at the powerful results of unity; “commanded blessings and life evermore” When we come together in the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, we won’t need to pray for blessing; it will already be here.

The New Testament meaning of agreement: *harmony, symphony*, is the pulling together of different gifts for a common cause. (See John 17:20-23) In other words, we have determined to sing together the same song. In a symphony, there is a, Base, Tenor, Alto, and Soprano. These are all unique in expression, yet they all sing the same song. Teamwork is a pretty profound concept. I think God intended us to be “interdependent” on one another, and not independent, dependent or codependent. In the Garden in Eden, God said, *“it is not good for man to live alone.”* When God says something is not good, then it’s not good. This principle applies to how life works in all relationships, not just in marriage. It stands to reason that we need one another. Everyone has unique gifts and talents, because God chose to make us different. Romans 12:4-6 *“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”* Notice; we are “one body” in Christ, yet “many” members.

**Text for today:**  
1 Cor 1:10-13  
“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. 11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you. 12 Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”  
NKJV

The word “divisions,” is *schismata*, schisms. It derives from the verb *schizo*, to rip or rend and separate from the whole. So when I tear off a piece, from a bed sheet, what is left behind seems rather inadequate, and the piece torn off can no longer serve as a sheet.

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all....13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,” (Eph 4:1-6, 13 NKJV)

“...endeavoring to keep/maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...”

Notice; Paul is not saying we are to “get” unity, he is saying we are to “keep” the unity.

What is the difference? Jesus has already accomplished unity. His prayer in John 17 was answered when he went to the cross.

“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, that they may be one as We are.” (John 17:11-12 NKJV)

Christ prayed for this unity in John 17 and they achieved it we are maintaining what has already been achieved. And we are an extension of that church so **we are not trying to get unity we are trying to maintain what has already been achieved.**

**EXAMPLE** it’s interesting that when you are endeavoring to maintain something that you already have, you act differently than if you are trying to get something that you don’t think you have.

In a marriage – that would be called adultery, immorality. Many times it’s harder to maintain what you have than it is to go out and get a new model.

#### MAIN THEME POINT

Endeavor to maintain – Work , do diligence, (To maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace) make every effort to maintain (the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace) , go outside of my comfort zone (To maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace), give up my right to be right (To maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace), do

whatever is necessary (To maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace).

### THE RESULT

MAIN TIE POINT If we endeavor to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace we will come to the unity of the faith –and unified faith cannot be denied.

### Can we all speak the same thing without it being mere repetition?

“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. 1 Corinthians 1:10 NKJV

Speak – NT:3004 *lego* (leg'-o); Means to speak with one's understanding or, *logo*, that is, reason, intelligence. In other words we are not just to express something without necessarily expressing one's own individual thought.

What is Paul saying?

- No Christian should become a parrot, merely repeating certain religious phrases coined by some “superhuman mind” or a “super-apostle.”
- No Christian should lay aside his or her intelligence and become the blind follower of an individual who poses as know-it-all. This was the problem in Corinth. Christians became followers of Paul, Peter, and Apollos. Never arrive at the place where you say of any individual, “He knows it all and I know nothing, therefore I'm going to follow him blindly.”
- What is “*the same thing*” that Paul admonishes all Christians in Corinth to intelligently speak? The Greek expression is *to'auto'* refers to the basis truth of the Gospel

### What can we do to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace?

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that

He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures..."1 Cor 15:3-4 NKJV

## 1. Determine to focus on the absolutes of scripture

"As I urged you when I went into Macedonia — remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, 4 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. 5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk..." (1 Tim 1:3-6 NKJV)

"If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions," (1 Tim 6:3-5 NKJV)

But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. 24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, (2 Tim 2:23-24 NKJV)

In other words don't spend your spiritual energy in bitter fights over unimportant or disputable matters which divide the church.

What do we know? The Apostles Creed. 150 A.D. The apostle's creed was formulated to counter the prevailing heresies at the time. "symbol of faith" **Gnosticism** (Greek: γνῶσις *gnōsis*, knowledge) refers to diverse, syncretistic religious movements in antiquity consisting of various belief systems generally united in the teaching that humans are divine souls trapped in a material world created by an imperfect god. They believed that only they possessed a special mystical knowledge, reserved for those with true understanding. -

**SHOW APOSTLES CREED** : I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## 2. Determine to focus on the real hero

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?" 1 Cor 1:13

"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." 1 Cor 2:2-3 NKJV

- a. When our focus moves off the real issues; off why we are here and what our mandate is, we become ineffective.
- b. Matt 22:37-40 -- "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." NKJV