

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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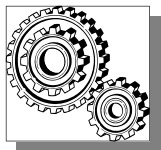
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By
Steve H. Atherton, Esq.

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Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

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In Christ's time, an unholy trinity comprised of the religious leaders, the state, and the money

changers, controlled the "church" in Israel.

Ultimately, that unholy trinity crucified Christ. After all, wasn't it shortly after Jesus cast the money changers out of the temple that the leaders of the temple brought bogus charges against Him, condemning Him to death? Furthermore, we know that Jesus could not be crucified but by the authority of Rome, operating through Pilate and Herod. Sadly, the very same unholy trinity, though largely undetected, has arisen in our midst. It is manifested today in the form of the incorporated church, servant to the state and the money changers rather than to Christ. In this first of a two part series, I will demonstrate how the church – in many cases unwittingly – has voluntarily joined itself to this unholy trinity. In part 2 of this series, I will address how churches can disentangle themselves from the unholy

trinity and set their feet back firmly upon the rock of our common salvation, Jesus Christ the Word of God.

those who walk by "sight" rather than by faith will receive the "mark" out of fear, if not willingly. Now, what does all of this have to do with the unholy trinity, you might ask? Much. Just bear with me.



In Israel, at the time of Christ, the nation was under Roman rule. The priests and other religious leaders, ruled more by the fear of men than of God (recall it was that fear that kept them from taking Jesus sooner), had joined

with Rome and with the money changers. Specifically, King Herod, who was Rome's patron and no heir of David, built the Jews their temple. Furthermore, it was the priests' failure to do God's work that left it to Jesus to drive the money changers out of the temple. As a result of their faithfulness to Rome and the money changers, however, the priests and religious leaders were rewarded with position and honor and wealth.

In like manner, many church

In Paul's first letter to Timothy, he states that the "love of money is the root of all evil." *1 Tim. 6:10*. As Christians, we know that the key to the rise of the antichrist will be people's love of money. After all, the device that the antichrist will use to move people to receive the mark is the fact that without the mark you will be unable to "buy or sell." *Rev. 13:17*. Those that trust the Lord to provide for them will not be moved, though they may not "see" how the Lord will provide for them, but



**"One man with courage makes a majority."
President Andrew Jackson**

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leaders today, blinded to their “love of money” and provoked to fear men by their legal counsel, have unwittingly chosen to incorporate and seek recognition from the IRS of their tax exempt status. The result is a self-satisfied, self-indulgent church that pats itself on the back, but is incapable of holding back corruption. In other words, it is the salt that has lost its savor and is now good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under the foot of men. Matthew 5:13.

All of this evil from the simple act of incorporation, you say? Yes, and let me show you why. First, the scripture is clear that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, which is His body. *See I Corinthians 12:12-27, Ephesians 1:17-23 and Ephesians 4:10-16.* By contrast, a corporation is an “artificial person” created by and at all times accountable to the state. And, as the scripture makes clear, you cannot serve two masters. *See Matthew 6:24 and Luke 16:13.*

Am I saying then, that no incorporated churches are of God? No, I am not. My personal belief is that many churches were incorporated in good faith, albeit in error, and therefore I trust that the grace of God has covered them. I do believe, however, that the Lord has withheld the fullness of His blessings on such churches to give them an opportunity to know the truth and be made free. *John 8:32.* If they reject the truth, well, they will re-

main in bondage and I believe that bondage will increase.

How then, is it that almost every church seems to have fallen into this trap? To answer that question, I need to address the most common reasons given in support of incorporation. First, corporations have perpetual existence that transcends the lives of their organizers. Second, corporations have the benefit of a government-bestowed “shield” to protect its members from liability, making them excellent repositories for assets (i.e. lands, buildings, and bank accounts). Third, official IRS recognition makes it easier to raise money from individuals who are more interested in their tax deductions than in supporting the work of the Lord. It also opens the door to the use of profitable extra-biblical means of raising funds provided by professional fund raisers, and through grants from government-approved foundations. As there are simple alternatives to incorporation for achieving perpetual existence (more on that in the next installment), the only reasons left are those that relate to the love of money!!! Even more chilling is the fact that each of the “visible” benefits bestowed by the state upon corporations, corresponds, albeit in a corrupted form, to an incorruptible promise of God that we are to walk in and receive by faith (not by sight). *See II Corinthians 5:7 and Hebrews 11:6.*

First, as for perpetual existence, we know that all men will die, but Christ and His church live forever. The problem is that we can “see” a corporation, but we cannot “see” Christ. Moreover, no man has authority to constrain Christ to one geographical area, people, or denomination. By contrast, every corporation has a physical headquarters with easily identifiable officers, clothed with a certain authority derived from their recognition by the state. Second, the corporate “shield” against liability is written into our laws for all to see and courts to recognize, but Christ as our “buckler and shield” and our “high tower” is not visible. *See e.g. Psalms 18 & 91.* We walk in His protection by faith and His promise to us is not to protect our natural bodies, but rather our souls. *Matthew 10:28.* Otherwise, how could we reconcile the abominable manner in which many of His most faithful servants have been handled throughout time? Instead, Christ teaches us that we are not to save our own lives, but rather to lose our lives for His sake and the gospel’s. *Matthew 16:25 and Mark 8:35.* In exchange, His promise is to save us, and in the resurrection to give us a new, incorruptible body, in which to dwell with Him forever. *John 14:2 and I Cor. 15:35-57.* Finally, while Christ promises many blessings (some visible and some not) to those that pay their tithes, make their offerings and give their alms, He does not promise the immediate gratification

of a tax refund like the government does.

My guess is that many of you who are reading this article may be angry. Angry with yourself, perhaps with me, or with others. In any case, let me remind you that we serve a merciful God. He has not given me this message to share to hurt or to judge you, but to liberate you. In that vein, I am reminded of the oft-quoted scripture following 9/11, namely:

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. II Chronicles 7:14.

Applying this scripture to your church, my advice is that you enter into your closet and seek the Lord in secret, following the counsel of the scripture. He will be faithful to “heal” your church.

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**“Were we directed from Washington when to sow and when to reap,
we should soon want bread.”**

Thomas Jefferson

Unity among Christians Fact or Opinion? You decide...

By
Craig Lyman

The Lord has spoken a word to my heart and that word is **Unity**. I have found that this single word is like a "Pandora's Box". The subject opens many other doors, some good and some bad. **Unity** is without a doubt a tremendous subject all in itself. It is worthy of many pages of text and hours of discussion. The word "**Unity**" has been met with controversy and has had varying affects on many Christians and their Churches. So in brief, I'd like to share with you my feelings on this subject.

What is **Unity**? Webster's defines Unity as the state of being **One**. The combining of separate entities to form **one** in harmony of interest, opinion, and feeling. Whether it be Church entities forming a **Union** or individual Christians **uniting** for a common purpose, both are equally as important. The hard part isn't necessarily feeling the same way or having similar opinions, it's acting upon them in **unity**.

Why Is **Unity** so important? I see it like this... The Evangelical Christian community is and has been under attack and we are losing ground steadily and assuredly. The moral climate of this area (Vermont) and the entire **United States** is in severe decline and we need to be held accountable for it. We are being willingly led into the hands of the enemy and it is coming to a critical point where we will not be able to reverse the course which we are on. This course that we're on holds true to the Scriptures and the end times, but I ask you this...Are we supposed to be spectators during this time? No, we need to be Christians of Action. Division is a weapon of the enemy. Division is an antonym for **Unity**.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand." **Luke 11:17** While we bicker about the doctrine of religion the enemy is hard at work tearing down and destroying what we are supposed to be building up,

God, why does it have to be that way?

In Jesus' last hours, before being betrayed, He prayed for 3 things: He prayed for Himself, that He may be **One** with the Father. He prayed for His disciples, so "that they may be as **One** even as We are." And He prayed for you and I. **John 17:20-23** says it very clearly.

"I do not ask on behalf of these alone (His disciples), but those also who believe in me through their word (you and I); that they may all be **ONE**; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe Thou didst send Me. And the glory which Thou hast given Me, I have given to them; that they may be **ONE** just as We are **ONE**; I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be **perfected in UNITY**, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me."

His prayer for **Unity** is our instructions to do just that, **Unite** so the world may know Him. We have seen abortion turned into a human rights issue instead of what it really is. We now view gay and lesbian marriages are an "Alternative lifestyle". Child pornography is permitted in our school libraries if it's labeled as art. Not only are we accepting sin into our lives, we are allowing it to be turned into law.

"Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment". **1 Corinthians 1:10**

Vermont has been targeted as a weak spot for liberal legislation to be passed. There is big money from special interest groups looking at Vermont as a proving ground to impose their immorality on us and then the rest of the country. There is a persona that Ver-

monsters won't come out to vote, or our Christian Community is lacking **Unity**. We need to break this division and stand up to these special interest giants and "slay" them as if we were David slaying Goliath. If we don't stand up, we will certainly be held accountable to a higher authority.

Physician Assisted Suicide is a politically correct term for killing someone. By law we can take life from the womb, and soon we will be able to legally take lives from our nursing homes. What's next? We've been creating life in test tubes and are poised for cloning to become mainline. Where do we draw the line? Do you want, one day, for someone to legally take your life or create a double of you? We are playing God. Our legislators need to hear our views loud and clear. We need to be proactive instead of reactive. What are we allowing? Is this God's plan? Should we as Christians **unite** for a more Godly purpose?

Our Declaration of Independence says..." Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed (meaning you and I). That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

If that doesn't empower you, then what will? If we are the government then why don't our laws reflect a Christian core? Let's not abolish it, but fix it to reflect His light before it's too late.

"A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with, the result that every

democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, (which is) always followed by a dictatorship." -Alexander Tyler (1787)

"The average age of the worlds greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

**From Bondage to spiritual faith,
From spiritual faith to great courage;
From courage to liberty;
From liberty to abundance;
From abundance to complacency;
From complacency to apathy;
From apathy to dependence;
From dependence back into bondage."**

Let's stop being complacent. We are only 3 steps from being sold back into bondage.

In **Ephesians 4:12-14**, we are admonished "...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach **unity** in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming."

What I've written on these pages are reasons why I believe **Unity** is so critical at this particular time and for our future. What does **Unity** mean to you? I thank God as I write these words I can call a sin a sin and not be prosecuted for it. The day will come when that no longer will be true, and when it does, I can rest in knowing my future is secure in Jesus Christ because I will stand in the gap. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." **Joshua 24:15**

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What can I do?



Faith without works is dead
James 2:17

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Shortly after this issue is distributed, Town Meeting Day will be occurring throughout the State of Vermont. This is a unique institution and we encourage everyone to take part.

Occasionally there are items of interest to Christians that take the form of petitions or resolutions. For instance, the Earth Charter and physician-assisted suicide are likely to appear in a few meetings. Their proponents are looking for an uninformed populace to give impetus to their ideas by signing the petition or having a voice vote on an issue that they are defining in their terms.

Enjoy the freedom our forefathers gave us, but remember to be vigilant in what you are doing, in order to preserve the freedom our forefathers fought and died to protect.

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Next Meetings

March 14, 7:00 pm
No. Ave. Alliance Church
Burlington, Vt.
April 11, 7:00 pm
Maranatha Christian Church
Williston, Vt.

**Making A Difference
in
Vermont!**



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