

God's Plan For Man: Unity - (Psalm 133:1-3)

Sunday PM 01/16/22

Introduction:

The Bible speaks about unity and fellowship. Those two words go together. When there is unity there is fellowship and when one is lacking the other will be also.

I) Causes of Division and Strife

A) Sin

1. Sin separates man from God.
 - a. Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden
 - b. Impossible to have fellowship with God and be in sin,
Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.
2. Sin separates man from his fellowman
 - a. Cain killed his brother Abel
 - b. It caused David to kill Uriah the Hittite

B) False worship

1. In the Patriarchal Age some worshipped God according to His word and others did not.
 - a. Noah and Abraham worshipped God while others worshipped idols.
 - b. We read of the 'gods on the others side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites"

Joshua 24:15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

2. Paul makes this point in:

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? **15** And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? **16** And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." **17** Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

3. There are all kinds of false religions out there, those cause man to be separated from God, **John 4.24**
 - a. Jesus was not saying this to some gentile bowing down to an idol but to a Samaritan that was worshipping the true God. Her problem was her worship was not according to truth.
 - b. Sadly many may be bowing down to their creator but not according to His will.

C) Having two different laws creates enmity

1. Jews were under the Law of Moses and the Gentiles were not.
2. Both could serve the same God but this created a distrust

and rivalry between the two.

- a. Remember the case of Jonah?
 - b. He did not want to go to Nineveh because he knew God would accept them if they repented of their sins.
3. The problem in this case is not with God's law of Moses or how he was dealing with the gentiles but man's attitude toward his fellowman.
 4. We no longer have two separate laws but just one,

Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

II) God's Plan for Unity

A) Seen in Jesus' prayer,

John 17:20 "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.

1. Unity is desired by Jesus and God for all His servants.
2. Jesus came to reconcile man to God,

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away;

behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

- a. Unity between man fails when God is left out of the picture.
- b. We see religious division today in world religions and even in so-called Christian religions.
- c. Why? Because it has the wrong basis, instead of man it should be God.

1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

B) All speak the same thing, *1 Corinthians 1.10*

1. This means we all recognize the word of God as our standard of authority.
2. The problem today is people want to have their own doctrine instead of God's word.
3. What would happen if we all agreed to go only by the Bible?

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- a. Is there any thing wrong with only going by the Bible?

1 Corinthians 4:6 *Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.*

- b. How many doctrines did Jesus leave us? **Ephesians 4. 5** says there is “one faith”; so He left us one.

C) We allow Jesus to be the head of His body and the King of His Kingdom

- 1. He is the head of His body,

Colossians 1:18 *And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.*

- 2. He is the only King and Potentate of His kingdom, **1 Timothy 6.15**

- a. The church refers to the people that are saved.
- b. The Kingdom refers to the rule and authority of Christ.

- 3. How many kingdoms did Jesus establish? While the church and the kingdom are not the same, they were both established by Jesus and are connected.

Colossians 1:13 *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **14** in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

D) We work together inside the body of Christ

- 1. The term body is used to show unity and importance of each member.
- 2. Problem at Corinth was envy, jealousy, and strife. Paul

used the word schism in **1 Corinthians 12.25**

3. The body is used to illustrate what Paul is saying because the body has different parts and each part does some thing unique for the body.
4. So it is with the body of Christ. In the New Testament some had spiritual gifts. This created some problems because some thought their spiritual gift was better or more important someone else's spiritual gift.
5. Paul pointed out that all spiritual gifts came from God, **1 Corinthians 12.4**
6. None of those people had worked to obtain their gift.
7. Their gifts were not a rival to each other but an aid, each one had a purpose and ultimately, they were all to edify the body.
 - a. All the parts are to work together for the good of the body.
 - b. What if every Christian did this in the church?
 - c. We all studied our Bibles for the answer of God and then did our best to work together.

E) We love one another as Christ loved us

1. See the love of Christ in His death on the cross,
John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
 - a. Paul in Romans makes the point that God sent Jesus to die for us while we were still His enemies, **Romans 5.8**
2. We are told to love one another this way, **1 John 3.16**
 - a. You can tell when people really care about each other.

- b. They pray for one another, they rejoice with one another, they talk and communicate with one another.
3. They grow up with one another,

Ephesians 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Conclusion:

Unity is God based not man based. When man obeys God he is united not only with his God but also other children of God. That will happen only when we allow God to be God, obey His word, speak the same thing, let Christ be the head of His body and King of His Kingdom, work together, and love one another.