

Unity of the Brethren

- Unity In Truth Is Basic
- Biblical Description of Bible Unity

The Lesson is entitled, "Unity of the Brethren"

One **RESULT** of the cross, is **UNITY**.

[Eph.2:13-16](#) reads

- "but now **IN** Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off, are made **NIGH** by the blood of Christ.
¹⁴ For He is our peace, Who hath made both **ONE**,
and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;
¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances;
for to make in Himself of twain **ONE** new man, so making peace;
¹⁶ and that He might reconcile both unto God, in **ONE** body by the cross,
having slain the enmity thereby:" ([Eph.2:13-16](#))
- "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye **ALL** speak the **SAME** thing,
and that there be **NO DIVISIONS** among you; but that ye be **perfectly joined TOGETHER**
in the **SAME** mind and in the **SAME** judgment." ([1Cor.1:10](#))

"Oneness; Harmony; Agreement; Accord; Uniformity."

Not unity in error, which is worse than division (read [2Jn vs.9-11](#)).

I. Unity In Truth Is Basic

A. GOD, LORD, SPIRIT

Those that do not handle the word of God aright ([2Tim.2:15](#)),
Usually handle the Word loosely (as some might say),
and tend to add and take away from the Word of Truth ([Prov.30:6](#)).
Such individuals historically, are described by some, as Bible liberals, or "The Left (goats)" ([Matt.25:32-33](#)).

In contrast, those that strictly follow the Word of God,
Historically are described by some, as Bible Conservatives, or "the right (sheep)" ([Matt.25:32-33](#)).

The Left agree, with those on the Right,
on One God, One Lord, and One Spirit;

- Which is where our One HOPE is Centered.

But, The FAITH, the BODY (or church), and BAPTISM

- **The Left** (Bible liberals) **disagree with the Right** (Bible conservatives).

Should we just erase the last 3, because of disagreement?

LISTEN to the following arguments, and its conclusion.

- If no FAITH (or no revelation), no need for the One SPIRIT who revealed the Word, so just erase it.
- If no revelation of SPIRIT, we cannot know the One LORD, so erase it.
- The Only way we know the FATHER, is through the LORD, so erase it.
- A world without God surely is without HOPE, so erase it!

WE MUST ACCEPT ALL TRUTH!

- "The **SUM** of Thy Word is Truth;" (reads [Psa.119:160a](#)), not bits and pieces of it, singled out by itself.

So we should read the TEXT slowly, consider it well,
then be willing to un-erase, or cease to add and take away from the Word of God.

B. On Each of the Following, there is General Agreement of All

That there is, **One God**

- The bible confirms that, “there is but **ONE God**, the Father, of Whom are all things, and we in Him;” ([1Cor.8:6a](#))

There is general agreement of all, that there is, **One Lord**

- The Bible confirms that there is, “**ONE Lord** Jesus Christ, by Whom are all things, and we by Him.” ([1Cor.8:6b](#))

There is general agreement of all, that there is, **One Spirit** (singular, not many)

- “Howbeit when He, **The Spirit** of Truth, is come, He will guide you into ALL Truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.” ([Jn.16:13](#))

There is general agreement of all, that there is, **One Hope**

- “Looking for that blessed **HOPE**, and the glorious appearing of the Great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” ([Titus 2:13](#))

The Bible says

- “We are **SAVED** by **HOPE**;” ([Rom.8:24](#))
- “**HOPE** to the **END** for the **GRACE** that is to be brought **UNTO** you, **AT** the revelation of Jesus Christ” ([1Pet.1:13](#))

In [Rom.15:13](#), we read:

- “Now the God of **HOPE**, fill you with **ALL** joy and peace **IN** believing, that ye may abound in **HOPE**, through the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit”
- “In **HOPE** of eternal **LIFE**, which God, that cannot lie, **PROMISED** before the world began;” ([Titus 1:2](#))
- “being justified by His **GRACE**, we should be made **HEIRS** according to the **HOPE** of eternal life.” ([Titus 3:7](#))
- “**HOPE** is the **ANCHOR** of the soul, both **SURE** and **STEADFAST**” ([Heb.6:18-20](#))

There's Only,

C. ONE God, ONE Lord, ONE Spirit, and One Hope So, Why general DISagreement, on...

The One Faith (or the One Gospel)?

- [Jude vs.3](#) reads, “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the **COMMON Salvation**, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you, that ye should earnestly contend, for **The Faith**, which was **ONCE delivered**, unto the saints.” ([Jude vs.3](#))
- “he which persecuted us in times past (that is, Saul of Tarsus, who became the apostle Paul), now preacheth **The Faith**, which once he destroyed.” ([Gal.1:23](#))
- “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **The Gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;” ([1Cor.15:1](#))

Why General DISAgreement, on...

The One Body?

- God “hath put all things under His feet (that is, Christ Jesus), and gave Him to be the Head, over all things to **the church**,²³ which is **His body**, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.” ([Eph.1:22-23](#))
- “There is **ONE Body** (that is, ONE church), and **ONE Spirit**, even as ye are called in **ONE** hope of your calling;” ([Eph.4:4](#))

Why General DISAgreement, on...

Biblical Baptism? Notice the following necessary conclusion, about Baptism...

IF BAPTISM,

- **SAVES** ([1Pet.3:21](#); [Mk.16:16](#); [Col.2:12](#))
LIKE the blood of Christ ([Eph.1:7](#); [1Pet.1:18-20](#))

IF Baptism,

- Provides **Remissions of sins** ([Acts 2:38](#))
LIKE the blood of Christ ([Matt.26:28](#))

IF Baptism,

- **Washes away sins** ([Acts 22:16](#)) or **cleanses** ([Eph.5:26](#))
LIKE the blood of Christ ([Rev.1:5](#))

IF Baptism,

- **IS** in the likeness of the **Death, Burial** and **Resurrection** ([Rom.6:3-9](#); [Col.2:12-13](#))
LIKE the Gospel of Christ ([1Cor.15:1-4](#))

IF Baptism,

- **Changes** one’s **Relationship** ([Rom.6:16-18](#) → [Rom.6:3-5](#))

IF Baptism,

- Gives right to **Wear Christ’s Name** ([1Cor.1:10-13](#); [Acts 11:26](#); [Acts 4:12](#))

IF Baptism,

- Brings **Newness of Life** ([Rom.6:4](#)), because of A **New Spiritual Birth** ([Jn.3:3-5](#))

IF Baptism,

- IS for **Sanctification** ([Eph.5:26](#))

IF Baptism,

- IS **INTO Christ** ([Rom.6:3](#); [Gal.3:26-27](#))
And IF **IN Christ**, then a **New Creature** ([2Cor.5:17](#))
And **ALL Spiritual Blessings** exist only **IN Christ** ([Eph.1:3](#)), which means ZERO blessings **OUTSide** of Christ

IF Baptism,

- IS **INTO One Body** ([1Cor.12:13](#)), the **church** ([Col.1:18,24](#)) or **Kingdom** ([Jn.3:3-5](#))

IF Baptism DOES all of these things, for the soul of mankind,

WHAT is one’s CONDITION withOUT Baptism?

There is no excuse, for not being in UNITY, on the subject of Biblical Baptism.

The lesson is entitled, "Unity of the Brethren".

Consider with me the,

II. Biblical Description of Bible Unity

Notice the text of [Psa.133:1-3](#),

- "BEHOLD, how good and how PLEASANT it is for BRETHREN to dwell together in UNITY!

² It is LIKE, the PRECIOUS ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

³ AS the dew of Hermon, and AS the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there, the Lord commanded the BLESSING, even LIFE for evermore." ([Psa.133:1-3](#))

By way of introduction, note the meaning of the Word, BEHOLD:

It is used to point out a fact, person, or thought, that is worth great admiration.

[Jn.1:29](#) reads,

- "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, BEHOLD the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." ([Jn.1:29](#))
- "BEHOLD, what manner of LOVE, the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be CALLED the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us NOT, because it knew Him NOT." ([1Jn.3:1](#))

So God approves of unity;

We should give close attention to His will, make every effort to attain, and maintain it, in UNITY.

Note the meaning of the Word, BRETHREN:

It is, Relationship of members, in the FAMILY of God.

- From the O.T. It applied to the children of Abraham – the Israelites.
- From the N.T. It includes ALL who are under Christ, or IN Christ.

A. Unity Is GOOD ([vs.1](#) of [Psa.133](#))

...that is, Its moral quality is good.

DWELL: Not temporary, but continuing

- "ENDEAVOURING to KEEP, the UNITY of the Spirit, in the bond of peace." ([Eph.4:3](#))

Good in itself; Good for us; Good for those who see.

But division is BAD, wrong, and sinful .

- "For ye are yet CARNAL: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and DIVISIONS, are ye not CARNAL, and walk as men?
⁴ For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not CARNAL?" ([1Cor.3:3-4](#))
- "For to be CARNALLY minded is DEATH; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." ([Rom.8:6](#))

B. Unity Is PLEASANT ([vs.1 of Psa.133](#))

...that is, Its effect on us, is pleasant.

AS good music delights those who hear, so UNITY is a constant delight to those who are part of it.
A rare combination - both GOOD and PLEASANT!

Paul noted joy in fellowship of christians, who work together for the glory of their Master

- “fulfil ye my JOY (Paul says), that ye be LIKEMINDED, having the SAME love, being of ONE accord, of ONE mind.” ([Phil.2:2](#))

C. Unity Is ATTRACTIVE ([vs.2 of Psa.133](#))

...that is, its Effect on those who see us, is attractive.

Oil initiated Aaron, into High Priesthood ([Ex.30:30](#)).

The sweet fragrance, attracted attention of the people.

Unity and singleness of heart in praising God, made the Jerusalem church ATTRACTIVE.

- Notice the passage in [Acts 2:44-47](#), “ALL that believed were TOGETHER, and had ALL things COMMON;
⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, AS every man had NEED.
⁴⁶ And they, CONTINUING daily, with ONE ACCORD in the temple (which was, spiritual worship), and breaking bread from house to house (which was, a social gathering), did eat their meat with GLADNESS and SINGLENESS of heart,
⁴⁷ PRAISING God, and having FAVOUR with ALL the people.
And The Lord added to the church daily, such as should be saved.” ([Acts 2:44-47](#))
→ added from response of Acts 2:38

In contrast, confusion repels peace-lovers

- “For God is NOT the author of confusion, BUT of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” ([1Cor.14:33](#))

D. Unity Is PRODUCTIVE ([vs.3a of Psa.133](#))

...that is, Its effect on the lost, is productive.

For our considerations of vs.3 from Psalms 133...

Consider that, In the mountainous regions, moisture is raised by the sun, carried in the form of vapor, to the lower elevations of Palestine, where it then condenses into heavy dew, which is essential to crops in that area – that is, PRODUCTIVE.

Our Unity and Togetherness, helps bring about the conviction and conversion of the lost.

- Jesus said, “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye LOVE ONE ANOTHER; as I have LOVED you, that ye also LOVE one another.
³⁵ By this, shall all men know, that ye ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF ye have LOVE, one TO another.” ([Jn.13:34-35](#))
- “But IF ye bite and devour one another, take heed, that ye be not consumed, one of another.” ([Gal.5:15](#))

E. Unity Is BLESSED ([vs.3b](#) of [Psa.133](#)) ...that is, its grand result, is blessed.

God's blessing is seen in joys of fellowship NOW, and promise of life TO COME

- “Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of **GOOD COMFORT**, be of **ONE MIND**, live in **PEACE**; and the God of love and peace, shall be **WITH** you.” ([2Cor.13:11](#))
- “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you, from the foundation of the world:” ([Matt.25:34](#))

The opposite attitude cannot be blessed

- “These **SIX things** doth **The Lord HATE**:
yea, **SEVEN** are an **ABOMINATION** unto Him:

¹⁷ a proud **LOOK**, a lying **TONGUE**,
and **HANDS** that shed **INNOCENT blood**,

¹⁸ an **HEART** that deviseth, **WICKED** imaginings,
FEET that be swift, in **RUNNING** to mischief,

¹⁹ a **FALSE WITNESS** that speaketh lies,
and ^(#7) he that **SOWETH DISCORD** among brethren.” (that’s [Prov.6:16-19](#))

III. IN-CONCLUSION:

"BEHOLD" --- "BRETHREN" ([Psa.133:1-3](#))

- Unity Is **GOOD** – ([1Cor.3:3-4](#) - opposite)
- Unity Is **PLEASANT** – ([Phil.2:2](#))
- Unity Is **ATTRACTIVE** – ([Acts 2](#))
- Unity Is **PRODUCTIVE** – ([Gal.5:15](#) - opposite)
- Unity Is **BLESSED** – ([2Cor.13:11](#))

Praise God for provision of the Gospel, and **UNITY** therein.

UNITY is available through revelation.

Be part of it, and enjoy it, by obedience to its Author.

Won't you **COME** believing, repenting, confessing and Be Baptized **INTO** Him?

While Together we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw
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