

PERFECT UNITY

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Introduction...

**Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*
For brethren to dwell together in unity!**

Greetings...

Our Firm Foundation

Before we dive into the issue on unity, it is a must that we understand the foundation of our way ahead.

Those who find Christ as stronghold can stand firm and be at peace when stresses, worries and challenges approach.

The Lord has ways of shaking the world when He is at work. He literally caused the ground to quake when Jesus died on the cross in Matthew 27:51 **Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,** and Hebrews 12:26 **His voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.”** describes a time to come when the earth will undergo a similar display of His power and presence.

Likewise, God often lets the foundations of our personal world be shaken—whether through financial difficulties, family crises, or difficult diagnoses. If we’ve built our life on human wisdom, pride, conditional love, or the like, things may look good for a while but will collapse when storms hit.

Adversity affects everyone, yet we can have peace in knowing that God always has a greater purpose when He allows it into our life. Hard

times can shake believers out of apathy and self-focus, reminding us not to trust in ourselves or the temporary structures of this world, where foundations are not for life, but perhaps for tourism purposes only.

This brings us to Proverbs 3:5-6 **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.** There is only one secure foundation: a genuine, deep relationship with Jesus Christ, which will carry us through anything. No matter what storms are raging all around us, we'll have a solid footing if we stand on His love, otherwise it all ends up in confusion or severe disturbance.

Though our trials are challenging, we as believers are blessed with the security of a firm foundation. We also have the responsibility and honor of helping others to become strong in God's grace (2 Timothy 2:1). Be a living message of hope to those around you today.

Basically, we must have a firm foundation in Christ, for the fruits of the Holy Spirit flows abundantly by faith. This preserves disciples for godly unity and be spared from unwanted disintegration or incompatibility as described in a collapse.

The Mind of Christ

As we walk in the lane of righteousness, and as temples of the Holy Spirit, our minds are the battleground of the enemy, and as such, we have to secure it with the helmet of salvation. Where the mind goes, the body follows, even so in interpersonal or corporate causes.

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 8:6-7

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace (even so unity). 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

Our mind develops thought patterns that have been influenced by the culture in our family or what our parents taught us, education, experiences and other influences in the world. What our mind feeds on is what dominates our thoughts. These shapes the way we think which dictates the way we act and respond to situations, even our human reasoning.

This is why God commands us to be renewed in the spirit of our mind and to put on our new man which was created according to God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:23-24 ...and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

The mind of Christ has an attitude of humility and submission to the will of the Father. - He did not cling to status nor assert His rights (v.6) - He took the form of a servant. (v.7) Matt 20:28 - He was obedient to God at all times. (v.8) - He set His mind on the will of the Father; on the throne of God. Heb 12:2 . . . who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus Christ was totally selfless. He was not focused on His suffering but on doing the Father's will and serving others; giving up His life that men will be saved. Here, we see the integrity of the Father and the Son.

The Bible tells us that we have the mind of Christ. When we got born again in the spirit, we received the life of Christ, His mind in us by His Holy Spirit. It is in our spiritual man. And so, to put on the mind of Christ is to wear His attitude of humility and submission to the will of the Father. We need to subject our mind, will, and emotions to the Spirit of God by obeying God's Word and as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, our thinking patterns change. We begin to think Christ's thoughts. The degree that this takes place determines the degree of

our transformation. The Holy Spirit shapes our minds so that it can be like the mind of Christ.

As our minds are illumined by God's Word, the Holy Spirit convicts us to repent of sin or wrong thoughts that we have. Repentance means to make a change of mind, heart and action, by turning away from sin and self and returning to God.

John 8:31-32

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." - Meditate on the things of the Spirit according to Phil 4:8 – the things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, with virtue and praiseworthy.

One who has the mind of Christ possesses these characteristics:

1. One who has the mind of Christ is filled with godliness and contentment. 1 Timothy 6:6 Not proud, nor filled with envy, strife, evil suspicions, not a corrupt mind filled with lies.
2. Like Jesus, he sets his mind on heavenly things, on doing the will of the Father, even so obedience. Col 3:2-3.
3. Mind and heart is guarded with the peace of God. Phil 4:6-7. In prayer, we are able to receive the peace of God. A Spirit-controlled mind is life and peace.
4. Prepared for action in obedience to God. 1 Peter 1:13-14 Let us prepare our mind to know what we should do as we await the coming and appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If we have the mind of Christ who is our sure foundation, it spares us from competition, strife, dissent, animosity and all other unpleasing work of the flesh, but rather work diligently with equal vigilance against the schemes of the enemy.

At this point, it is a perfect time of refreshing on unity.

Jesus Prayed for Our Unity

In Jesus's lengthy prayer before he died for us, he wrapped up by praying for all his future followers that we would get along and be one, just as he and his Father are one John 17:23 **I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.** Their example is one of perfect unity, and we must pursue it with all diligence.

Jesus Died for Our Unity

Jesus died as the ultimate sin sacrifice to redeem us—to make us right with Father God—and bring about unity to all things in heaven and on earth through him. All things include us—it especially includes us Ephesians 1:7-10 **In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.**

We Are to Live in Unity

Furthermore, Paul urges the Ephesians—and by extension us—to live a life worthy of our calling, to be humble, gentle, patient, and loving, to make every effort to live in unity. This is because we are one body, through one Spirit, called to one hope, through one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, from one God (Ephesians 4:1-6 **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; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.)* We are to be one. This is what it means to live in perfect unity and why we should do so.

True Love Results in Unity

Paul also writes as God's chosen people—as followers of Jesus—we are to live with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. We are to bear with one another and forgive one another, just as Jesus forgave us. These all fall under the umbrella of love, working together to produce perfect unity (Colossians 3:12-14 *Therefore, as **the** elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also **must do.** ¹⁴But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.*).

Live in Perfect Unity

As followers of Jesus, we must get along in the spirit, manifested by living in unity with one another. This is an answer to Jesus' prayer for us, glorifying Father God, and serves as our most effective witness to a watching world who needs Jesus to save them. Our unity is beyond organizational unity... it is unity in the spirit that transcends all human perception, beyond tribes, beyond tongues and seasons, and even generations.

Ephesians 4:15-16, 30 *Speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶from 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. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

VISION: An army advancing the Great Commission for the values transformation of military and uniformed personnel across the nation with the working power of the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ (prepared for the Master's return).