

U Unity

Lesson Commenced: _____

Lesson Checked: _____

We hear a lot of talk about *UNITY* today.

On the world's political scene we have in place the *UNITED NATIONS*. Many of the world's leaders are advocating and actively promoting a "*ONE WORLD*" global system — involving the monetary system, the judicial system, and even a common language.

More significantly, we observe the present-day **Ecumenical Movement** which seeks to unite Christians and 'churches' under the banner of a *ONE-WORLD RELIGION*.

Because there is so much talk about Christian unity these days, and because our Church is *not* involved at all in the ecumenical movement, the purpose of this study is to teach you what the **BIBLE** has to say about unity — the true and the false.

MAN'S FIRST ATTEMPT AT "UNITY."

Turn in your Bible to *Genesis 11*. Here you will read about events which took place soon after the great world-wide flood of Noah's day — around 2,300 B.C.

- A. According to *Genesis 9:1*, God's command to Noah and his sons was to replenish the _____ .
- B. According to *Genesis 11:2*, instead of obeying God, the descendants of Noah remained in one place called the Plain of _____ .
- C. According to *Genesis 11:1*, the whole earth was of ONE _____ and of ONE _____ (i.e., they were all talking about one thing — unity!). See: *Genesis 11:4f*.
- D. According to *Genesis 11:4*, the inhabitants of the world decided to build two things.
 - 1. A _____ : an attempt to bring about *political* unity.
 - 2. A _____ : an attempt to achieve *religious* unity.

Archæologists have identified the Tower of Babel as a “ziggurat” — a tower used for pagan religious purposes.

- E. According to *Genesis 11:5-8*, would you say the Lord God was pleased with man’s attempt to bring about a “one-world” situation? _____
- F. What was the name given to this attempt? *Genesis 11:9* _ _ _ _ _ .

MAN’S FINAL ATTEMPT AT “UNITY.”

In the last book of the Bible — the Book of *The Revelation* — Chapters 6 through 19 cover future events which will take place upon the earth after the Rapture, and over the seven-year period of Tribulation known as Daniel’s 70TH Week.

Without going into a detailed study of Bible prophecy, it becomes apparent that in these godless days there will arise some form of unity.

- A. According to *Revelation 13:7*, the “Beast” (the Antichrist) will exercise political power over ALL kindreds and tongues and _ _ _ _ _ .
- B. According to *Revelation 14:8*, the center of this political unity is called _ _ _ _ _ .
- C. According to *Revelation 17:1*, the great “one-world” religious system of the last days is referred to as the _ _ _ _ _ .
(We identify this as a religious system because of *Revelation 2:20-22* and because the Lord’s true churches are likened to “pure, chaste virgins” by way of contrast — *II Corinthians 11:2*; *Ephesians 5:25-27*; *Revelation 19:7,8*.)
- D. God identifies this one-world “church of the Antichrist” as M _ _ _ _ _ , B _ _ _ _ _ . *Revelation 17:5*
- E. According to *Revelation 17:1,15*, this religious system sits upon “peoples, and multitudes, and _ _ _ _ _ , and tongues.” It is truly world-wide.
- F. According to *Revelation 18:2-8*, what is the end of this final, Satan-inspired attempt at UNITY? _____

TRUE UNITY Versus FALSE UNITY.

- A. Turn in your Bible to *Ephesians 4*. This is the “Unity Chapter” of the Word of God and deals with true unity as opposed to the *false* unity proposed by Satan.
- B. We hear so much in religious circles today about the need for a “spirit of unity.” In marked contrast, *Ephesians 4:3* commands us to keep the “ _____ ”

Before we look at this chapter in some detail, let’s establish some Bible principles which relate to unity.

1. *Amos 3:3* — “Can two walk together except they be _____ ?”
 2. *Ephesians 5:11* — “Have _____ with the unfruitful works of darkness.”
 3. *II Corinthians 6:14* — “Be ye not _____ yoked together with unbelievers.”
- C. Many ‘churches’ and religious groups are affiliated, or in some other way associated with the **World Council of Churches (W.C.C.)**, the **National Council of Churches (N.C.C.)**, other inter-faith groups, and/or local city-wide unity groups.

The chart below contrasts the differences between true Bible-based unity and these unscriptural associations:

TRUE UNITY	vs	FALSE UNITY
<p style="text-align: center;">ONE _____ (<i>Ephesians 4:4</i>)</p> <p>According to <i>Colossians 1:18a</i>, this “body” is a New Testament _____</p> <p>There is only ONE kind of Church — the New Testament kind!!</p>	vs	<p>The ecumenical movement embraces all major Protestant denominations and Eastern Orthodox groups, and is engaged in active dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church and most other major world (“non-Christian”) religions.</p>

<p>ONE _____ (Ephesians 4:4)</p> <p>This refers to the _____ (I Thessalonians 4:8), Who is also referred to in John 16:13 and I John 4:6 as the _____ of _____.</p> <p>He will never mix together truth and error.</p>	<p>Departure from the Word of God is giving heed to seducing _____ (I Timothy 4:1)</p> <p>Babylon will be the hold of every foul _____ (Revelation 18:2)</p> <p>Believe not _____ (I John 4:1)</p> <p>The great "ecumenical spirit" of today is the Charismatic Movement!</p>
<p>ONE _____ (Ephesians 4:4)</p> <p>The one hope (for the believer and this world) is the glorious _____</p> <p>_____ of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:13)</p>	<p>The World Council of Churches espouses its "mission" of the social Gospel. It seeks to bring about the utopian dream-society through liberation theology and Marxist revolution.</p> <p>The W.C.C. seeks to fulfill Revelation 21:1 through its own agency.</p>
<p>ONE _____ (Ephesians 4:5)</p> <p>This refers to _____</p> <p>_____ according to Philipians 2:11</p>	<p>The Church of Rome seeks to unite all Christendom under the lordship of the Pope!</p> <p>Many within the ecumenical movement only pay lip-service to Jesus Christ, calling Him "Lord," but denying the reality when they do not the _____ which He says. (Luke 6:46; John 14:15)</p>
<p>ONE _____ (Ephesians 4:5)</p> <p>Jude 3 tells us this faith was once _____</p> <p>_____ unto the saints.</p> <p>It is the complete body of doctrine taught in the Word of God.</p>	<p>The official "Statement of Faith" of the World Council of Churches is short and very general — it has to be, in order to accommodate such a wide spectrum of beliefs held by the various denominational constituents.</p> <p>Because this organization rejects the Bible as its absolute final authority in all matters of faith, we can understand why this is the case.</p>

ONE - - - - -
(Ephesians 4:5)

According to *Matthew 28:19*, this is the immersion of a believer in water to set forth symbolically the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ — an ordinance given to the Lord's churches to keep.

VS

The variety of so-called "baptisms" practiced amongst the member denominations of the ecumenical community is staggering, and presents a real difficulty for the movement in achieving unity.

They practice sprinkling, pouring, immersion, and no baptism — on infants, adults, believers, unbelievers, and the dead — for salvation, with salvation, and after salvation!!

ONE - - - - -
(Ephesians 4:6)

This is the Lord God Almighty of the Bible, Who manifests Himself as three Persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

See: *Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 John 5:7*

VS

A whole lot of people involved in this ecumenical unity believe in a DIFFERENT GOD than the God of the Bible.

There are even Athiests within the ecumenical system — those who actually deny the reality of God. There are Unitarians — those who deny that Jesus is God. There are Universalists — those who believe God is the Father of all men (saved and unsaved), and that all will be saved anyway.

Don't be fooled by their religious talk and terminology.

Someone said, "There is a difference between church union and church unity. You can tie a dog's tail and a cat's tail together, then toss them over a clothes line. You may have union, but you certainly won't have unity."

- **Spurgeon** said: "Unity at the expense of Truth is treason."
- **Criswell** said: "Ecumenicity is another name for Death to our Baptist faith."

THE UNITY WE NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT.

A. Those involved in the ecumenical movement will often quote *John 17:21* as a “proof text” that such a movement is of God. (This particular chapter in John is the **real** Lord’s prayer.)

1. Do you think God would have answered this prayer of His Son — or is it up to man to answer it? _____

2. Read carefully: *John 17:21-23* and check the real desire of the Lord’s prayer.

Union of all Christians, no matter what their beliefs or denomination.

Unity between members within each particular church.

3. To whom was the Epistle of *I Corinthians* initially addressed? (See: *I Corinthians 1:2*.)

The _____ at Corinth.

4. What was a real problem in this church? — *I Corinthians 11:18*.

D _____ .

5. God’s will for the church at Corinth (and every other New Testament Baptist church) is that there be:

NO _____ in the body. — *I Corinthians 12:25*.

6. Look up the word “schism” in a dictionary. Write down the definition.

7. What is the Lord’s desire concerning all the members within our church? (See: *Ephesians 4:13*.)

That we **all** come in the _____ of the _____ .

B. Real Church Unity.

1. It is significant to note that both *Ephesians 4:16* and *I Corinthians 12:12-27* liken our church to a human body, calling it the “Body of Christ.”

2. *Ephesians 4:16* sees the **goal** of our church to have every member working together just as a fit athlete has every joint and muscle toned to perfection.

3. *I Corinthians 12:26* sees the **danger** of our Church having suffering members – thus causing the work of the Lord to be “hamstrung.”
4. True church unity is not having a group of “cloned” Christians – all thinking the same, doing the same, liking the same things, etc. – it means having a spiritually fit body with *EVERY* member (yes, you too!) matured, ministering, and multiplying.

C. The AID To Church Unity.

According to *Ephesians 4:11,12*, the Lord gives to the churches *apostles* and *prophets* (ministries which ceased with the completion of the Word of God) and E _____, and P _____ and T _____.

D. The ATTITUDE For Church Unity.

List the godly attitudes needed in all members of our Church. *Ephesians 4:2,32.*

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Read: *John Chapter 17.*

MEMORIZATION:

Try to commit to memory: *Psalm 133:1.*