

Unity

TEXT: John 17:20-23

INTRODUCTION:

- A. RELIGIOUS WORLD DIVIDED - HUNDREDS OF DISTINCT BELIEFS.
- B. DIVISION IS NOT PLEASING TO GOD.
 - 1. Discredits our faith.
 - 2. Keeps us out of fellowship.
 - 3. Violation of God's express will.

I. UNITY IS DEMANDED BY THE LORD.

- A. JESUS PRAYED FOR IT(**John 17:20-21**).
- B. UNITY IS DEMANDED BY PAUL(**1 Cor. 1:10**).
 - 1. Demanded in the name of Christ.
 - 2. Speak the same thing.
 - 3. Perfected together in the same mind & judgment.
- C. WE ARE TO GIVE DILIGENCE TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT AND THE BOND OF PEACE(**Eph. 4:3**).

II. WHAT SHOULD BE THE BASIS FOR OUR DOCTRINAL UNITY?(Eph. 4:4-6).

- A. THERE IS ONE BODY(**Eph. 1:22-23; 2:16; 5:23**). ONE CHURCH.
- B. ONE SPIRIT(**1 Cor. 12:12-13; Phil. 1:27**).
- C. ONE HOPE(**1 Pet. 1:3-5; Acts 24:15**).
- D. ONE LORD...ONE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY, ONE STANDARD.
 - 1. Jesus is head of the church(**Eph. 1:22-23; Mat. 28:18**).
 - 2. We must respect his authority(**Col. 3:17; 2 John 9**).
 - 3. His teachings are the standard for all(**John 12:48**).
- E. ONE FAITH - WHAT IS MEANT BY "ONE FAITH?"(**Jude 3; Acts 24:24**).
- F. ONE BAPTISM
 - 1. One mode of baptism - immersion.
 - 2. One way to get into Christ.
 - 3. One in common. Water, remission(**Acts 2:38; 8:36; 10:47**).
- G. ONE GOD, EMPHASIZING THE PREEMINENCE OF THE FATHER. AS OPPOSED TO PAGAN GODS OF EPHESUS.
- H. PETER WOULD ADD TO THIS LIST ONE NAME(**Acts 4:12; 1 Pet. 4:16**).
 - 1. To wear another would signify division(**1 Cor. 1:10-13**).
 - 2. Why not be just a "Christian?"(**Acts 11:26**).

III. WHY IS THERE NO UNITY IN THE RELIGION?(1 Cor. 4:7).

- A. PAUL'S ANSWER(**1 Cor. 4:6**). GOING BEYOND!
 - 1. Ignorance of God's will.
 - 2. No respect for his authority.
- B. **2 John 9**. IF WE CAN STICK TO THE BIBLE AS OUR SOLE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY, WE CAN ACHIEVE UNITY!
- C. COMPROMISE IS SIN(**Jude 3; 2 Tim. 1:13-14; Prov. 23:23**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. TO ACHIEVE UNITY WE MUST SUBMIT TO GOD'S WORD.
- B. IT SAYS THE SAME THING TO YOU AS IT DOES TO ME.
- C. WON'T YOU BECOME ONE WITH US? "SEE HERE IS WATER!"