

Identity with Christ

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I. Introduction - Unity of spirit among believers is evidenced by having one heart and soul.

A. Singleness of heart is a theme running through Acts. (Acts 4:32-33).

1. Impact comes through working with a united goal.

a) "One accord" occurs 14 times in the Bible, but 11 times in Acts.

b) The word "love" does not occur in Acts.

c) Acts tells of the service of the disciples, not their meditations.

d) They sacrificed for one another.

e) They had great power and grace.

2. Identity of Spirit brings unity, not sameness of opinions.

B. Four things believers must have to build unity of soul, mind, and heart.

1. Faith in the word of God builds unity.

a) God's word is settled forever in heaven. (Psalm 119:89)

b) Jesus prays that God will sanctify the believers in truth which passes the test of time. (John 17:17)

c) People have attempted to destroy the Bible, but they always fail.

d) Since Genesis 1:16 dogs have barked at the moon, yet it is unmoved.

e) Since Genesis 3:1 the devil has attacked the Bible, yet it is unmoved; the copyright is in heaven.

f) Scripture in the heart provides comfort even for those suffering for their faith.

2. Meditation on the word of God builds unity.

a) O how I love thy law; it is my meditation all day. (Psalm 119)

b) Meditate means to spin and to go deep.

1) A philosopher James Hirby of the 17th century concluded that the word of truth is more important than all the writings of the philosophers.

2) Reading the word quickly misses the depth of God's meaning that believers need for growth.

3) Many go to Disneyland but few go to the wonderland of God's truth through meditation in the word.

3. Obedience to the word of God builds unity.

a) I have chosen the way of truth, and it acts as a map to guide the believer's path. (Psalm 119:30)

b) Jesus asks, "why call me Lord and do not what I say." (John 6:46)

1) Hearing and not obeying is foolish.

2) Hearing with obedience is wise.

3) Storms of life come to all and we need a solid foundation of truth to the word of God.

4) The way of error is broad and smooth, but it ends in destruction.

4. Sharing Christ with others together builds unity.

a) David said he would share the truth with kings, his peers, and we should share with our peers. (Psalm 119:46)

b) The message of salvation through Christ must be preached.

II. Conclusion.

A. Are you sure that if you met God tonight and he asked "Why should I let you into heaven?"

1. If you died today how would you answer this question?

2. There is only one right answer to this question.

a) Personal faith in Jesus Christ.

b) Eternal life is a gift, found only in the Son of God; if anyone has not the Son of God the wrath of God abides on him. (1 John 5:11-12)

c) To as many as received him to them he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

d) We must each individually receive Christ.

e) Behold I stand at the door and knock (Revelation 3:20)

f) Jesus patiently waits at the door of our lives to come in, forgive us by his blood, and grant the joy of salvation.

B. Do you need to pray and ask God to forgive you for neglecting the word of God, or do you need to pray to receive Christ right now?

1. For those who need to pray for salvation pray the following:

- a) I know that I am a sinner.
- b) I ask Jesus to forgive me of my sin.
- c) Lord, give me the precious gift of eternal life.
- d) I invite you into my life as Savior and Lord.