

Unity

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Introduction

1. Psalm 133:1-3; John 17:20-21
2. The problem of unity has been around for a long time 1 Corinthians 1:10
3. This lesson deals only with unity but very closely connected are authority (on what are we going to unity) fellowship (with whom will we stay united)
4. Today we want to discuss the who, what when and where of unity

II Discussion

1. Who are to unite?
 - a. Brethren are to unite Psalm 133:1
 - i. Galatians 6:1 written to the churches of Galatia 1:2; 1 Corinthians 15:1,58
 - ii. Based on the family relationship Romans 8:14,17; 1 Timothy 3:15
 - b. Those that agree or walk together Amos 3:3
 - c. The religious world that believes in Christ John 17:20-21
2. What is meant by unity
 - a. We mean more than union or unity in diversity. Cats tied together and then thrown over a clothes line have union but not unity
 - b. Webster unity; the quality or state of not being multiple; ONEESS.
 - c. Ephesians 4:4-6 extend this idea
 - i. One body = unity in organization
 - ii. One Spirit = unity of revelation
 - iii. One hope = unity of aspiration
 - iv. One Lord = unity of authority
 - v. One faith = unity of belief
 - vi. One baptism = unity of practice
 - vii. One God = unity of worship
3. When us unity to be had?
 - a. When we accept the authority of the scriptures Matthew 28:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:16
 - b. When we all learn to speak the same thing and be of the same mind and judgment 1 Corinthians 1:10
 - c. When we learn to speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent. 1 Peter 4:11
4. Where do we unite?
 - a. Not on conscience for it could be wrong. Acts 28:1; 1 Timothy 4:1-2
 - b. Not on man-made doctrine Galatians 1:6-12 Matthew 15:8-9
 - c. We must unite then only on the word of God. John 12:48; 1 Peter 4:11 Titus 2:1
 - d. Some who have changed God's word:
 - i. Nadab and Abihu Leviticus 10:1-2
 - ii. King Saul tried to change God's worship 1 Samuel 13:9
 - iii. Jeroboam changed the worship of God. 1 Kings 13:32-33
5. How do we unite?

- a. By putting away man-made doctrines such as:
 - i. Sprinkling
 - ii. Instrumental music in worship
 - iii. Lord's Supper at any time or with anything
 - iv. Direct Operation of the Holy Spirit before or after conversion
 - v. Losing where God did not lose
 - vi. Binding where God did not bind
 - vii. Social drinking
 - viii. Clapping and raising hands, swaying during worship
- b. We can only unite on what God has given us, the Bible. 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Peter 4:11

III Conclusion

1. We can only unite when we accept the word of God as our only source of authority and walk in its precepts
2. The problem has been around for a long time but it can be overcome.
3. Will you unite with us by believing, repenting, confessing and by being baptized?

Sources: Old Sermon preached at Batesville Ms 11/3/85