



The Lion of Judah



“Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

(Revelation 5:5)

UNITY AND ONE ACCORD

“... that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

(John 17:21)

Christians like to talk about **unity**, but many don't know what it really means

- Some say we are **already united** into One Body in Christ Jesus and, therefore, don't need to do anything about trying to create unity
 - ⇒ Others believe that we must **agree about everything** in order to be in unity

While it is true that **born-again believers** become part of the **Body of Christ**, we are a very **dysfunctional body**

- Otherwise, **Jesus** would not have **prayed** his last prayer in **John 17** for unity
 - ⇒ To be one as Jesus and the Father are one means **existing in total harmony**
 - ⇒ When we do not do so, the world will **not believe** that Jesus was sent by the Father as the Savior of the world

We see in many other Scriptures that **disunity, discord, divisions and strife exist within the Body of Christ**

- ⇒ *For where there are **envy, strife, and divisions** among you, are you not **carnal** and behaving like mere men? ⁴For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal? (1Corinthians 3:3-4)*
- ⇒ *If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, ⁴he is proud, knowing nothing, but is **obsessed with disputes and arguments** over words, from which come **envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, ⁵useless wranglings** of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. (1Timothy 6:3-5)*
- ⇒ *But **avoid foolish and ignorant disputes**, knowing that they **generate strife**. ²⁴And a servant of the Lord must **not quarrel** but be gentle to all. (2Timoth 3:23)*
- ⇒ *But **avoid foolish disputes**, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are **unprofitable and useless**. (Titus 3:9)*

We are **clearly admonished** to **avoid** the **disunity** that comes from envy, strife, foolish disputes, arguments, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings, contentions, etc.

- Unity means **remaining in harmony and loving relationship** with **every** member of the Body of Christ **despite differences of opinion** over minor issues

- ⇒ **Unity** is not uniformity because **God loves the diversity** He created
- ⇒ **Diversity** need not **cause division** as long as we **operate in love and humility**, esteeming others **more highly than ourselves** (Philippians 2:3)

When we do operate in unity, **wonderful and miraculous things happen**

- ⇒ *Indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers **were as one**, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: “For He is good, for His mercy endures forever,” that **the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud**, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the **glory of the LORD filled the house of God.** (2Chron. 5:13-14)*
- ⇒ *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were **all with one accord** in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a **rushing mighty wind**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them **divided tongues, as of fire**, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)*
- ⇒ *So **continuing daily with one accord** in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and **having favor with all the people.** And the Lord **added to the church daily** those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46-47)*
- ⇒ *And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, **they raised their voice to God with one accord** and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the LORD and against His Christ.” “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” And **when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.** (Acts 4:23-35)*
- ⇒ *And through the hands of the apostles **many signs and wonders** were done among the people. And they were all with **one accord** in Solomon’s Porch. ¹³Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. ¹⁴And **believers were increasingly added to the Lord**, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. ¹⁶Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and **they were all healed.** (Acts 5:12-16)*
- ⇒ *Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. ⁵Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ⁶And **the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip**, hearing and seeing the*

miracles which he did. ⁷For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were **healed**.
⁸And there was great joy in that city. (Acts 8:4-8)

- ⇒ Peter was therefore kept in prison, but **constant prayer** was offered to God for him **by the church**, and when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And **his chains fell off his hands**. (Acts 12:5,7)

This is why the Scriptures beseech us to **lay aside all petty differences** and **strive not against one another** but rather **strive to maintain unity**

- ⇒ Behold, **how good and how pleasant** it is for brethren to **dwell together in unity!** It is like the **precious oil** upon the head, **running down on the beard**, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. (Psalm 133:1-2)
- ⇒ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, **beseech** you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ²with all **lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** ⁴There 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... **till we all come to the unity of the faith** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the **fullness of Christ**. (Ephesians 4:1-6, 13)
- ⇒ Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ²fulfill my joy by **being like-minded**, having the **same love, being of one accord, of one mind.** ³Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also **for the interests of others**. (Philippians 2:1-4)

We must function as a **true, interconnected body** where **every part** has an **effect** on all the **other parts**, as the Apostle Paul so clearly wrote in 1Corinthians 12:4-26)

- ⇒ There are **diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.** ⁵There are **differences of ministries, but the same Lord.** ⁶And there are **diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.** ⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the **profit of all:** ⁸for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. ¹²For as the **body is one and has many members**, but all the members of that one body, being many, **are one body, so also is Christ.** ¹³**For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴For in fact **the body is not one member but many.**
- ⇒ ¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the

body,” is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? ¹⁸**But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.** ¹⁹And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

⇒ ²⁰But now indeed there are **many members, yet one body.** ²¹And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²No, much rather, **those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.** ²³And those members of the body which we think to be **less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,** ²⁴but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, ²⁵that there should be **no schism** in the body, but that the members should have **the same care for one another.** ²⁶And if **one member suffers, all the members suffer** with it; or if **one member is honored, all the members rejoice** with it.