

Biblical Unity

United Out of Diversity



We normally think of unity and diversity as the opposites of each other - and they are. However, it may be of interest to note that God made man to be greatly diverse from others. Christianity is unique, in that respect, among the religions of the world for many reasons, but one in particular—it is not a national religion but an international religion. God’s intent was to bring people from all the nations of the world into one body (church) to worship and serve under His Kingship. All these people of the world, with all their differences, were to become one in Christ. What a challenge!

(Revelation 5:9-10).

Diversity was to no longer be a barrier for people to be in God’s kingdom. It is open to all **(Colossians 3:11; Galatians 3:26-28)**. Now in Christ, they all have access by one Spirit to the Father **(Ephesians 2:14, 18)**. Jesus brought unity out of diversity! This was and still is today, the great challenge of unity in the church.

UNITY THROUGH A BALANCED APPROACH

Biblical Unity cannot be fully attained from extreme approaches. But neither can it be attained by paying any price. The call for sound doctrine is very strong in the Scriptures:

1. **Ephesians 4:13** – “Until we all come to the unity of the faith”
2. **Colossians 2:7**- “Rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught.”
3. **1 Timothy 1:3**- “Charge some that they teach no other doctrine”
4. **1 Timothy 4:1**- “In the latter times, some will depart from the faith”.
5. **2 Timothy 4:2**- “Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching”.

God's truth must **NOT** be ignored because it does make a difference what people believe. It is only the truth that can make us free (**John 8:31-32**). So, unity at the expense of truth is unacceptable; but truth at the expense of unity is unacceptable as well.

The first extreme will cause us to be "tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error" (**Ephesians 4:14**).

The second extreme will lead to a form of binding things on people that have not been bound by God (**Matthew 23:4; Colossians 2:20-23**). This takes away our freedom to read and study the Word of God for ourselves to see what God would have us to do.