

# Biblical Unity

The Challenge of Unity



## The Concept of Unity

### Philippians 2:2

- Be Like Minded
- Have the same love
- Being of one accord
- Being of one mind

### Colossians 3:14-17

- Put on the love which is the bond of perfection
- Let the peace of God rule in your heart
- Let the Word of God dwell in you richly
- Whatever you do, do all in the name of the Lord

### Acts 4:32

- They were of one heart and one soul

### Romans 12:16

- Be of the same mind toward one another

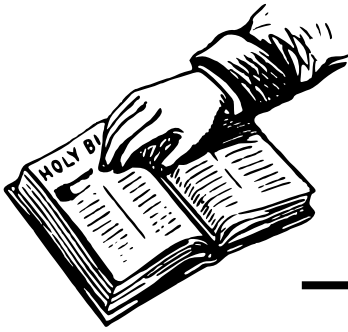
### Romans 12:18

- Live peaceably with all men, as much as lies within you

## 2 Questions to Consider Regarding "Unity" of God's People

In a congregation of people from different backgrounds, beliefs, and maturity in Christ, how can they be alike, unified, or one?

How can such a congregation be of one mind and to what extent are they to be of one mind?



# Let's Search the Scripture Together

*Read Ephesians 2:11-22. Let's see if we can garner some answers to these questions.*

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## **In Ephesians 2:11-22, God faced challenges as it relates to unifying His people.**

How could he bring people out of perverted Judaism, outright paganism, and idolatry to make them “one” people in Christ? Just imagine the differences regarding their past beliefs! How was He to make them “one” with so many differences? Was this instantaneous or over a period of time? These are the things WE must consider as a local Body of Christ and as we strive to reach the goal of unity.

## **Continual Challenges of the Early Church**

From Galatians chapter 2, through Acts chapters 10, 11, and 15; Romans chapters 14 and 15; and in 1 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9, we can see that the early church faced continual challenges to a mindset of oneness. Unity not only involves doctrinal beliefs, but it involves other areas as well. These are some of the same challenges we face today.

## **Subscribing to the 7 “Ones”**

In Ephesians 4:4-6, there are seven “Ones” the church certainly need to subscribe to. However, the church must continue to stay together and work at developing the perfection of our “oneness of mind and heart”.

## **A Few Final Thoughts. . .**

- Just how serious are we about unity?
- Are we willing to give up our personal liberty in Christ to maintain that unity?
- Can we not see that we share more in common as believers than what separates us?
- The world **MUST** see us working through our differences while maintaining our oneness.
- We must realize that the truth of God’s Word is not to be compromised, but that it is something into which we grow in a loving atmosphere.