



UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

NOT

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

UNITY IN DIVERSITY



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

TO DEFINE:

Unity in diversity is a concept of "unity without uniformity and diversity without fragmentation"^[1] that shifts focus from unity based on a mere tolerance of physical, cultural, linguistic, social, religious, political, ideological and/or **psychological** differences towards a more complex unity based on an understanding that difference enriches human interactions. It has applications in many fields, including **ecology**,^[1] **cosmology**, **philosophy**,^[2] **religion**^[3] and **politics**.^[4]

UNITY IN DIVERSITY



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

TO DEFINE:

"Unity in diversity" is used as a popular **slogan** or **motto** by a variety of religious and political groups as an expression of harmony and unity between dissimilar individuals or groups. The phrase is a deliberate **oxymoron**, the rhetorical combination of two antonyms, *unitas* "unity, oneness" and *varietas* "variety, variousness". When used in a political context, it is often used to advocate **federalism** and **multiculturalism**.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

To DEFINE:



A thing cannot both be, and not be:

- for the same object;
- at the same time;
- in the same sense.

United Circle



United Circle



UNITY IN DIVERSITY

To DEFINE:



What **MOST MEAN:**

- Unity while tolerating and even embracing **false religions.**
- Unity while tolerating and even embracing **sinful behavior.**
- Unity while tolerating and even embracing **false doctrine.**



UNITY IN DIVERSITY

IN FAITH & PRACTICE IS ANTI-BIBLICAL



Amos 3:3 (NKJV)

3 Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

IN FAITH & PRACTICE IS ANTI-BIBLICAL

2 Corinthians 6:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: *“I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”*



UNITY IN DIVERSITY

IN FAITH & PRACTICE IS ANTI-BIBLICAL



► Misconceptions That Lead Some To Demand We Accept “Unity In DIVERSITY” in FAITH & PRACTICE” —

- The assertion that ABSOLUTE TRUTH is unknowable & unattainable - (Jn 8:32; Eph 5:16-18)
- The plea “Follow the Man, not the plan” —???
- “The Spirit gave a diversity of gifts to men therefore diversity in faith and practice is acceptable” - this is a non-sequitur — (1 Cor. 12:4-26)

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



▶ The Prayer of Christ

John 17:17–19 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



▶ The Prayer of Christ

John 17:20–23 (NKJV)

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;
²¹ 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.

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



▶ The Prayer of Christ

John 17:20–23 (NKJV)

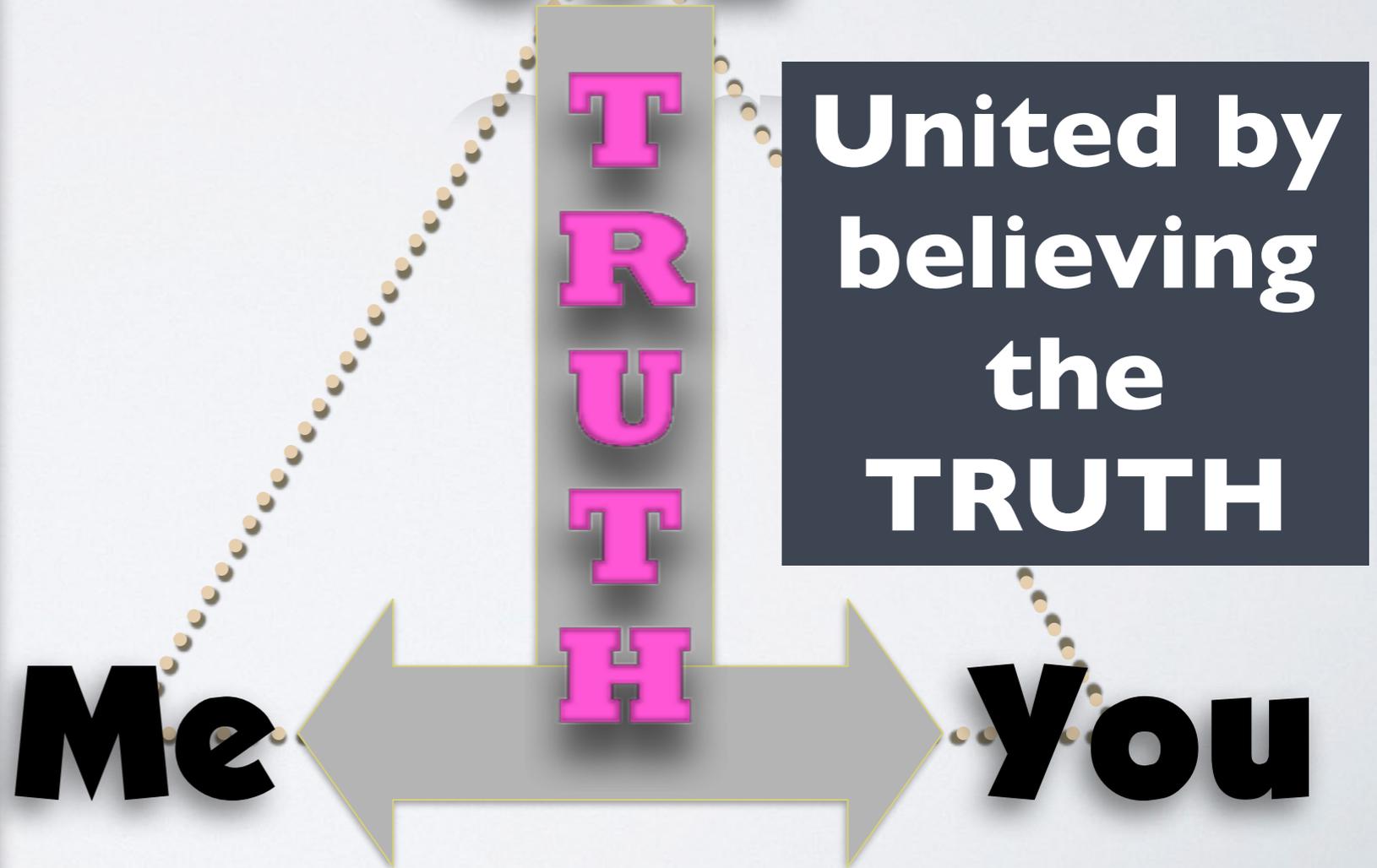
²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



20 - “who will believe in Me through their word;”

▶ The Prayer of Christ
God



UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



20 - “who will believe in Me through their word;”

▶ The Prayer of Christ

- 21 - “that they all may be **one, as ...**”
- 21 - “they also may be **one in Us, ...**”
- 22 - “that they may be **one just as We are one**”
- 23 - “they may be **made perfect in one,**”

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



20 - “who will believe in Me through their word;”

▶ The Prayer of Christ

- We are a diverse group UNITED in **TRUTH!**
- **TRUTH** holds us together!
- Therefore our emphasis must be to remain in harmony with the **TRUTH!**

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



Ephesians 4:1–3 (NKJV)

¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



▶ UNITED by virtue of being CALLED:

- By the SAME holy calling of God in Christ Jesus – 2 Tim 1:9
- By means of the same gospel – 2 Thes 2:12,13; Gal. 1:6-9
- By the SAME seed being planted in our heart — Luke 8:11; 1 Peter 1:22,23

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

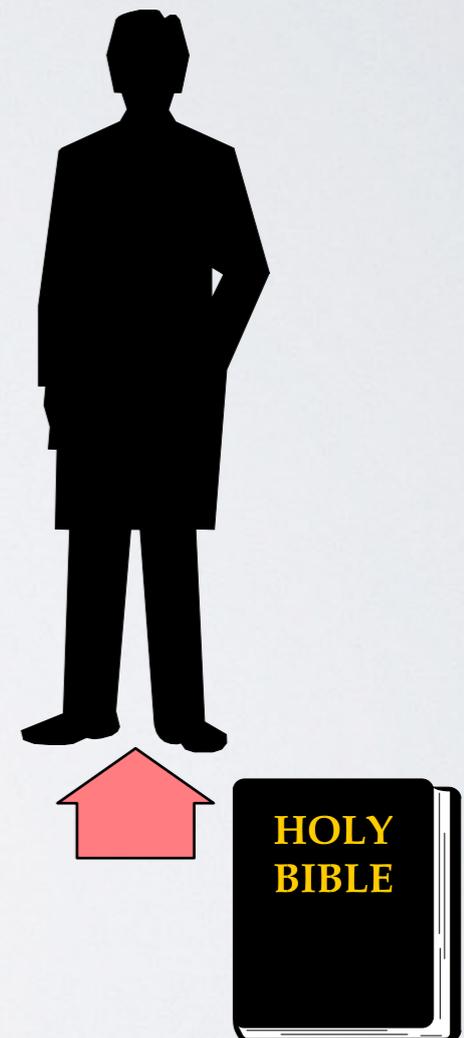
Corn



Apple



CHRISTIAN



“According to Its Kind”

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



▶ United BY The Attitude of The Spirit ...

- **Lowliness** – putting others above self – Phil 2:1-5; James 3:15-18
- **Gentleness** – not spinelessness or weakness but strength under control – Mat 5:5; Gal 6:1
- With **longsuffering**, - Self-restraint which does not hastily retaliate a wrong —Gal 5:22; Col 1:3:12
- **Bearing** with one another In **love** – Patient with others foibles, faults, and infirmities - 1 Cor 13:4

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



Ephesians 4:4–6 (NKJV)
⁴ *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



▶ United In The Doctrine of The Spirit ...

- **One body** – church – Acts 2:47; Eph 1:22,23; 5:23
- **One Spirit** – one source of truth – John 16:13; Eph 3:3-5
- **One hope** – salvation in heaven – 1 Thes 5:8; Acts 23:6; Col 1:5
- **One Lord**, - one master - Jesus Christ – Acts 4:12; 10:36; Heb 12:1,2
- **One faith** – one body of truth to be believed, taught & defended – 2 Tim 1:13; 2 Tim 3:16-4:2; Jude 3

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



▶ United In The Doctrine of The Spirit ...

- **One baptism** – Commanded by Jesus & the apostles – the means of entrance into the body of Christ – Mat. 28:29; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 10:48; Rom 6:3,4; 1 Pet 3:21
- **One God and Father** - the Father “of” all who believe; they are His children (John 1:12; Gal. 3:26). And He is “over” all them as their Sovereign. He lives “through” them and manifests Himself “in” them.

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



Ephesians 4:7–16 (NKJV)

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

⁸ Therefore He says: "*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.*" ⁹ (Now this, "*He ascended*"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



Ephesians 4:7–16 (NKJV)

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ 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;

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



Ephesians 4:7–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



▶ United In The **SAME** Body of Christ in the **UNITY** of **FAITH**

- **The Source** ... 7-10 **Jesus Christ** – from the bounty of His grace (7) – as prophesied (8, cf Ps 68:18) – as resurrected Lord – (9,10)
- **The Nature** ... (11) – the gifts, (apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors, teachers), provided **THE COMPLETED FAITH** - (1 Co. 13:10ff)
- **The Purpose** ... (12-15) – to equip for service, development, stability, unity & protection **UNDER THE SAME HEAD - JESUS.**

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 4:1-16



S	◆ Calling	} =	U
A	◆ Attitude		N
M	◆ Doctrine		I
E	◆ Head		T
			Y

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



DIVERSITY IN UNITY

United

All ONE – John 17:20,21

Apostles Doctrine –
Acts 2:41,42

The Faith – Rom 1:5

Teaching & Practice –
1 Cor. 1:10

Gospel – Gal. 1:6-9

Diversity

Distinct Individuals –
John 17:20,21

Nationalities / abilities –
Acts 2:7-11 / 42-46

diff. gifts / Matters of liberty
– Rom 12 & 14

Gifts / Abilities – 1 Cor. 12

Male, female, bond, free,
Jew, Gentile – Gal. 3:26-29

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

NOT

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

United in Spirit

Church at Corinth in one body – yet differed in gifts and abilities - 1 Cor. 12:13ff

Church in Ephesus united in one body yet diverse in nationality and background – Eph. 2:16,20

Diversity In Spirit

Church at Corinth required to repent of their carnality & errors – 1 Cor; 2 Cor.

Church in Ephesus had left its first love and called upon to REPENT or be removed – Rev 2:1-7; cf. 2:14; 2:20

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

NOT

UNITY IN DIVERSITY



DIFFERENT

- ◆ Callings
- ◆ Attitudes
- ◆ Doctrines =
- ◆ Heads
- ◆ Bodies

**D
I
V
I
S
I
O
N**

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

NOT

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

“Doctrine isn’t important . . . The only thing that matters is that we are sincere . . .

“They continued steadfast in the apostles doctrine, (Acts 2:42) we MUST obey the truth (1 Pet. 1:22,23; 1 Tim. 4:13-16)

**The Truth Is That
Which Is Right!!**

**One Or Both
Must Be Wrong**

DOES IT MATTER?



UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

NOT

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

“Church affiliation doesn’t matter, . . . We’re all heading to the same place, just different paths . .

There is but **ONE** body, (Eph. 4:4) **ONE** church (Eph. 1:22,23) the saved – (Eph 5:23-26) –**ONE** path – (Mat 7:13,14; Acts 4:12)

The Truth Is That
Which Is Right!!

One Or Both
Must Be Wrong

DOES IT MATTER?



UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

NOT

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

“Baptists believe that no one is a scriptural subject for baptism till he is already saved.

What Baptists Believe And Why They Believe It, J. G. Bow, pp. 36-37:

**He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
Mark 16:16 (NKJV)**

**The Truth Is That
Which Is Right!!**

**One Or Both
Must Be Wrong**

DOES IT MATTER?



UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

NOT

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

“Baptists believe that no one is a scriptural subject for baptism *till he is already saved.*

What Baptists Believe And Why They Believe It, J. G. Bow, pp. 36-37:

**Acts 2:38 (NKJV)
... "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;**

**The Truth Is That
Which Is Right!!**

**One Or Both
Must Be Wrong**

DOES IT MATTER?



UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

NOT

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

“Baptists believe that no one is a scriptural subject for baptism *till he is already saved.*

What Baptists Believe And Why They Believe It, J. G. Bow, pp. 36-37:

Acts 22:16 (NKJV) ...
Arise and be baptized,
and wash away your
sins, calling on the
name of the Lord.’

The Truth Is That
Which Is Right!!

One Or Both
Must Be Wrong

DOES IT MATTER?



UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

NOT

UNITY IN DIVERSITY



▶ **Unity in DIVERSITY** (*in matters of FAITH & PRACTICE*)
undermines fundamental principles of TRUTH...

- **Divine inspiration of Bible** – 2 Tim 3:16,17; 1 Cor. 2:6-16; 1 Pet 1:10-12; 2 Pet 1:16-21
- **Authority of Scripture** – Mt 21:25; 22:29; 1 Cor. 14:37; Col. 3:17
- **Bible as definite pattern of truth**
- 2 Tim 1:13; 3:14; Tit. 1:9; Heb 8:5

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 1:10
(NKJV)

¹⁰ Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.



BIBLE Demands UNITY in what we BELIEVE, TEACH & PRACTICE

- **Submission to Jesus** — Deut 18:18; Mat. 17:5; Heb. 1:1,2; etc.
- **Terms of salvation** – Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21
- **Doctrine** – Jude 1:3
- **Identity** – Acts 11:26
- **Work** – Col. 3:17
- **Worship** – John 4:24
- **Organization** – Phili 1:1

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

Our UNITY is DEPENDENT on our CONFORMITY to DIVINE TRUTH

2 John 9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; ¹¹ for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.



UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

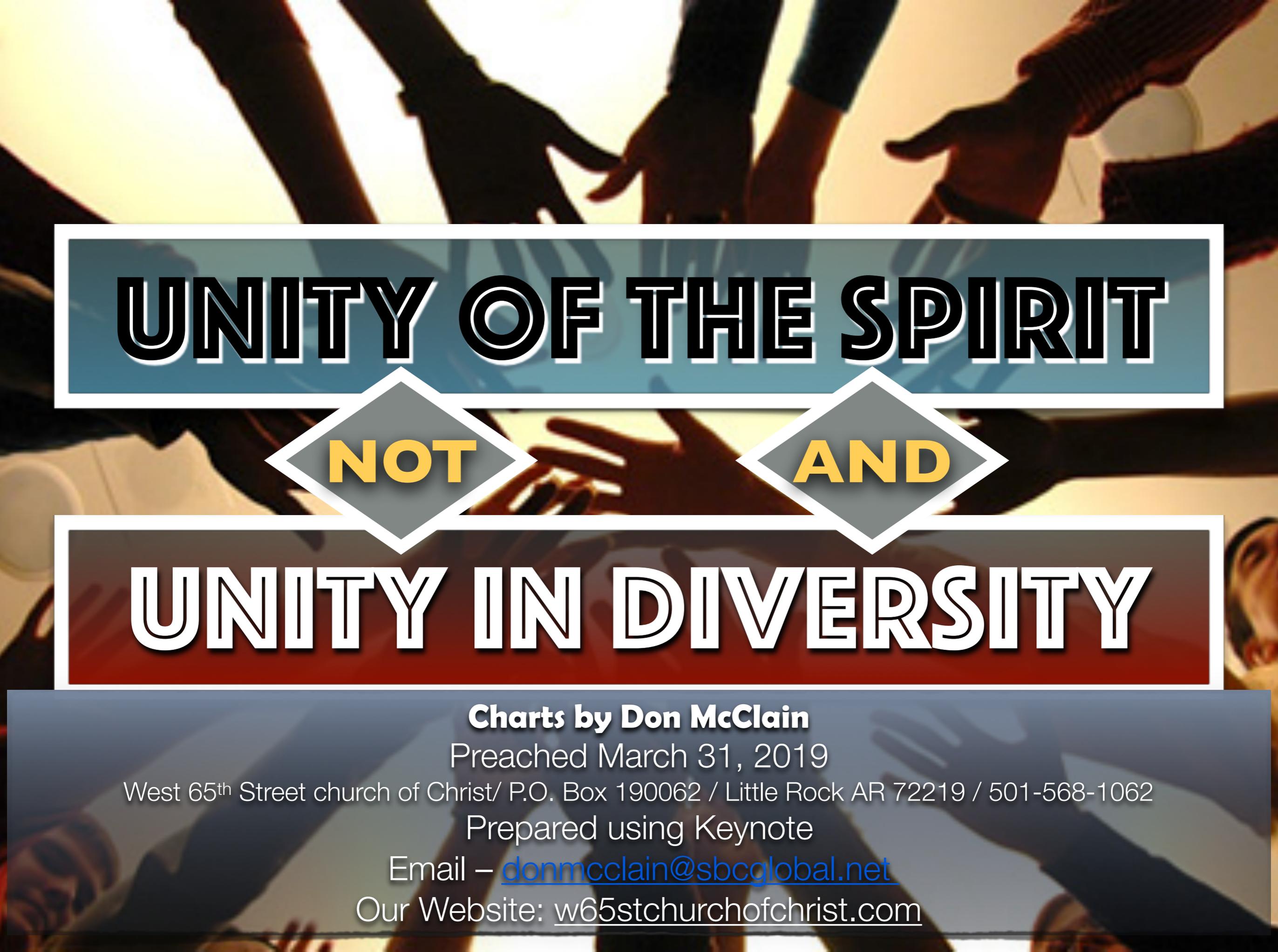


- ▶ Unity by believing ONLY what the scriptures SAY! – John 17:20,21; Eph 4:4-6, 1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Tim. 3:16
- ▶ Unity by preaching and teaching ONLY things authorized by the scriptures – 1 Peter 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:2
- ▶ Unity by staying within the boundaries established by the scriptures - Col. 3:17; 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17; 2 John 1:9

UNITY OF THE SPIRIT



- ▶ Is your desire to know and follow the TRUTH? Mat 26:39
- ▶ Are you willing to lay aside, or at least NOT bind your opinions upon others for the sake of unity?
- ▶ Superficial approaches to division will never solve the problem - ONLY by truly conforming our hearts to the Lord's teaching will we ever truly achieve unity!



UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

NOT

AND

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Charts by Don McClain

Preached March 31, 2019

West 65th Street church of Christ/ P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 / 501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

Our Website: w65stchurchofchrist.com

Philippians 2:1–5 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³ *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,