

# Unity of The Spirit

*Or*

## Unity in Diversity?



# Unity of The Spirit Or Unity in Diversity?

**The Basis of  
Unity -**

**The Nature of  
Unity -**

**The Limit of  
Unity -**



# Unity of The Spirit Or Unity in Diversity?

## John 17:20-23 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> 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 Or Unity in Diversity?

## John 17:20-23 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup> 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 Or Unity in Diversity?

God

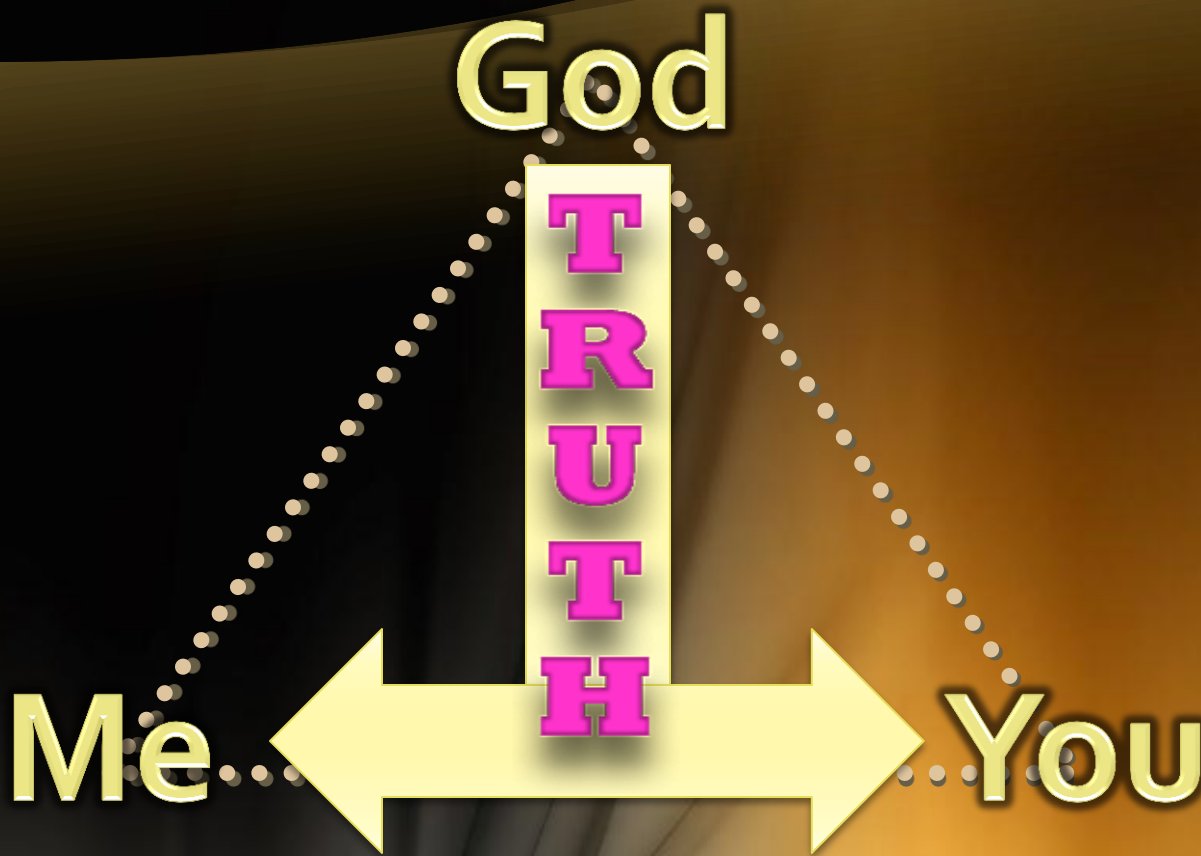
**T  
R  
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H**

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

Me

You

# Unity of The Spirit Or Unity in Diversity?



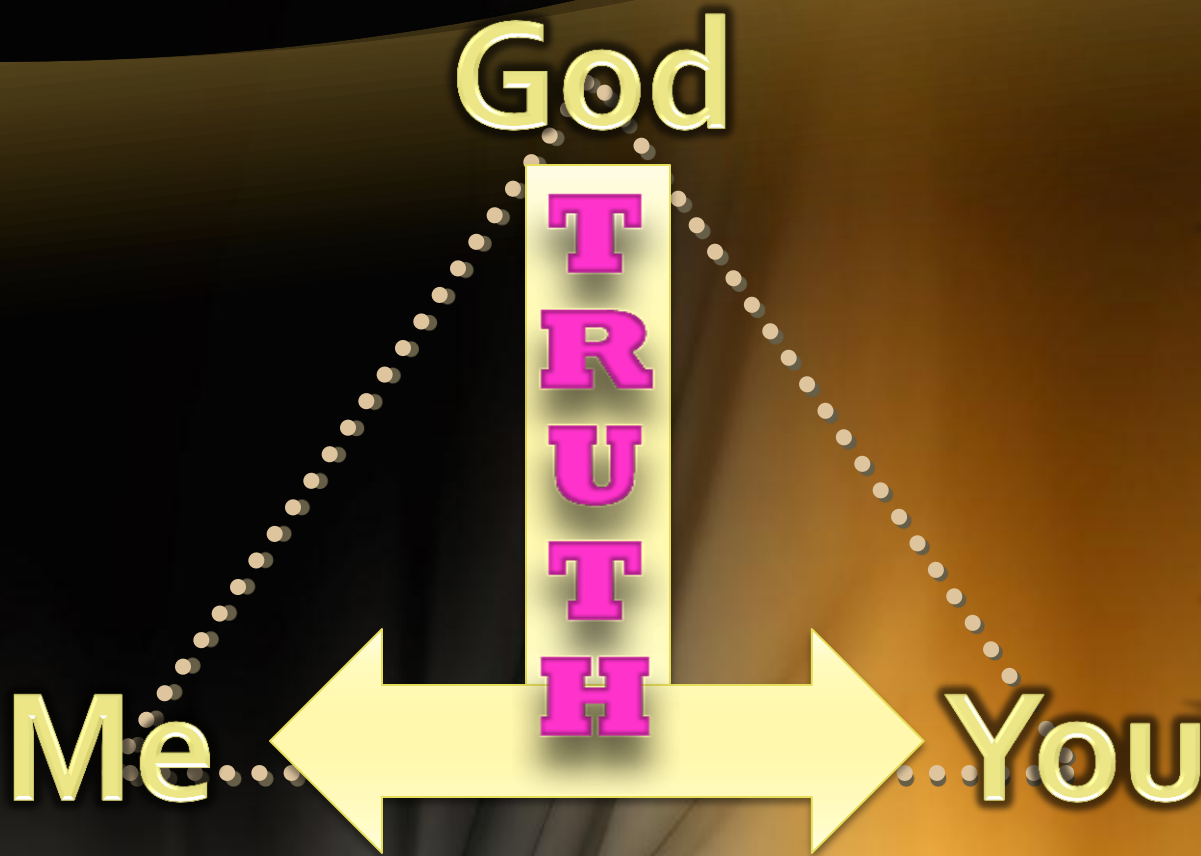
21 – “that they all may be one, as”

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 Or Unity in Diversity?



We are a  
diverse group!  
Truth holds us  
together!  
Therefore our  
emphasis must  
be to remain in  
harmony with  
the truth!

# "The Unity of The Spirit"

Ephesians 4:1-16

Amos 3:3  
(NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Can two walk  
together,  
unless they are  
agreed?

S ♦ **Calling**  
A ♦ **Attitude**  
M ♦ **Doctrine**  
E ♦ **Body**

U  
N  
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# *"The Unity of The Spirit"*

**UNITED IN THE SOURCE OF OUR CALLING**



**Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

# *"The Unity of The Spirit"*

## **UNITED IN THE SOURCE OF OUR CALLING**



**Our walk  
should  
correspond  
to our  
calling**

- ✦ **A holy calling of God in Christ Jesus – 2 Tim 1:9**
- ✦ **Called by means of the same gospel – 2 Thes 2:12,13**
- ✦ **Out of darkness into God's light – 1 Pet 2:9**
- ✦ **Unto God's kingdom & glory – 1 Thes 2:12**

# *"The Unity of The Spirit"*

## **UNITED IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE SPIRIT**



**Ephesians 4:2-3 (NKJV)**  
<sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and  
gentleness, with  
longsuffering, bearing with  
one another in love, <sup>3</sup>  
endeavoring to keep the  
unity of the Spirit in the bond  
of peace.



# "The Unity of The Spirit"

## UNITED IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE SPIRIT



**Displaying  
these  
virtues does  
not come  
naturally or  
easily – it  
requires  
much effort**

- ◆ **Lowliness** – putting others above self – *Phili 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*



# "The Unity of The Spirit"

## UNITED IN THE DOCTRINE OF THE SPIRIT



### Ephesians 4:4-6 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;*  
<sup>5</sup> *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;* <sup>6</sup> *one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

# "The Unity of The Spirit"

## UNITED IN THE DOCTRINE OF THE SPIRIT



- ✦ **One body** – *one 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** – *one way to salvation & heaven* – 1 Thes 5:8; Acts 23:6; Col 1:5
- ✦ **One Lord,** - *one master* – Acts 10:36; 1 Cor 1:2,13
- ✦ **One faith** – *one body of truth to be believed, taught & defended* – 2 Tim 1:13; Rom 10:8; Jude 3



# "The Unity of The Spirit"

## UNITED IN THE DOCTRINE OF THE SPIRIT



**Our unity is  
dependant  
on our  
conformity  
to Divine  
truth**

- ✦ **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.

# "The Unity of The Spirit"

## UNITED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

### Ephesians 4:7-16 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore He says: "*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.*" <sup>9</sup> (Now this, "*He ascended*"--what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?



# "The Unity of The Spirit"

## UNITED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

### Ephesians 4:7-16 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

# *"The Unity of The Spirit"*

## **UNITED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST**

### **Ephesians 4:7-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints  
for the work of ministry, for the  
edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>  
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;



# *"The Unity of The Spirit"*

## **UNITED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST**

### **Ephesians 4:7-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> 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, <sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--

# *"The Unity of The Spirit"*

## **UNITED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST**

### **Ephesians 4:7-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> 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.





# "The Unity of The Spirit"

## UNITED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST



**Our unity is  
dependant  
on our  
working  
together in  
love – (16)**

- ✦ **The Source Of These Gifts ... 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 Of These Gifts ... (11) –**  
*Providing the church with the necessary functions (apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors, teachers)*
- ✦ **The Purpose Of These Gifts ... (12-15) –**  
*for development stability and unity - To prepare members of the body for service*

# "The Unity of The Spirit"

Ephesians 4:1-16



**S** ♦ **Calling**  
**A** ♦ **Attitude**  
**M** ♦ **Doctrine**  
**E** ♦ **Body**

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# The Unity In Diversity?

Post Modernist / Denominationalist / Truth Compromiser / Liberal



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**Calling**



**Attitude**



**Doctrine**



**Body**

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# "The Unity of The Spirit"

## United

Word – 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

In individuality –  
John 17:20,21

Nationality – Acts 2:7-11

Matters of liberty – Rom 14

Gifts / Abilities – 1 Cor. 12

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

# "The Unity of The Spirit"

## United

Barnabas & Paul United In  
Doctrine – Acts 14:22

Roman Brethren United In  
Christ – Rom 6:3-6

Ephesians United In Christ  
& Doctrine – Eph. 2:20

## Diversity

Barnabas & Paul Differed  
In Judgment - Acts 15:36-  
41

Romans Brethren Diverse  
In Gifts & Abilities – Rom  
12

Diverse In Nationality /  
Backgrounds – Eph. 2:16

# The Unity In Diversity?

Post Modernist / Denominationalist / Truth Compromiser / Liberal

## United

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

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



# "The Unity of The Spirit"

## The Scriptures Demand Unity

### **1 Corinthians 1:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> 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.

- ✦ **Terms of admission** – Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38
- ✦ **Doctrine** – Jude 1:3
- ✦ **Identity** – Acts 11:26
- ✦ **Work** – Col. 3:17
- ✦ **Worship** – John 4:24
- ✦ **Organization** – Phili 1:1

# *The Unity In Diversity?*

**Post Modernist / Denominationalist / Truth Compromiser / Liberal**

**Doctrinal  
Unity-in-  
Diversity  
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 –** Mat  
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

# *The Unity In Diversity?*

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**Doctrinal  
Unity-in-  
Diversity  
Undermines  
Fundamental  
Principles of  
Truth**

**2 John 1:9-11 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; <sup>11</sup>for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.





# Unity of The Spirit Or Unity in Diversity?

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Prepared February 18-19, 2012

Preached February 19, 2012

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## **Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV)**

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



**Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;* <sup>5</sup> *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;* <sup>6</sup> *one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*