

14. Unity in the Body of Christ

The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children.

One of God's gifts to His church is unity.

- Just as the Father, Son, and Spirit are one, so should the members of the church be united.
John 17:20-23
- As God's children, we are a united family. Ephesians 4:1-6

Texts for further study: Ephesians 4:14-16; Colossians 3:10-15

Despite their widely varied backgrounds, Christians are a new creation and are united in full equality in Christ.

- No matter what we were like before we accepted Christ, we become part of one body in Him.
Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14
- There are no class distinctions in God's sight. 2 Corinthians 5:16-17; Acts 17:26-27
- In Christ all class distinctions dissolve and we become one people; joint heirs of God's promises to Abraham. Galatians 3:27-29
- Love toward one another should characterize the members of Christ's body. John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:14

Texts for further study: Matthew 28:19-20; Psalm 133: 1

Personal Application

-  How can I contribute to the unity of my church? (See Ephesians 4:1-3)
-  Is it possible to maintain friendship with Christ while treating one of His children as an enemy? (See Matthew 5:44)
-  It is a privilege to be a part of the family of God. Wherever I go in the world, I can meet with brothers and sisters who will love me and treat me as one with them in Christ.

Commitment

- Because I am grateful for Your work in recreating me as Your child, I will treat others as my brothers and sisters in Christ. I will seek Your help, Holy Spirit, to maintain peace, unity, and love in the church and wherever I am.