

# UNITY

By Donald Townsley

There has been much writing and talk among God's people about **UNITY**. **UNITY** is a Bible subject and needs to be discussed. God's people must ever strive to maintain the **UNITY** Christ prayed for and Paul pleaded for, but this is the only kind of **UNITY** we should seek -- **BIBLE UNITY**. If there is anything worse than division, it is "unity in error".

**TWO TERMS NEED OUR STUDY:** These are **UNITY** and **UNION**. Many have mistaken **UNION** for Bible **UNITY**. **UNITY** is the state of being one; oneness ( Acts 4:32; John 17: 20 - 21). In **UNION** you have a number of antagonistic elements brought together into a **UNION**, but still have all the elements of division. **UNION** is opposed to **UNITY** for the following reasons:

- **UNITY** means to dwell together without differences ( I Cor. 1:10; Phil. 3:16).
  - **UNION** seeks dwelling together despite differences.
- **UNITY** comes by individuals accepting the word of God (John 17: 20 - 21).
  - **UNION** may be had by agreements to get along on man's terms.
- **UNITY** prohibits division ( I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4: 3 - 6).
  - **UNION** admits division and encourages it.
- **UNITY** can only be had by the removal or destruction of error (Rom. 16:17; Tit. 3:10; 2 John 9 -11).
  - **UNION** opens the floodgate for all manner of evil.
- **UNITY** fulfills the word of God (Matt. 7:21).
  - **UNION** makes conscience and sincerity the standard of authority instead of the word of God.
- **UNITY** is had by doing the will of God (John 17: 20 - 21).
  - **UNION** is had by compromising convictions and disregarding differences.
- **UNITY** eliminates error.
  - **UNION** is a puny effort to patch up the damage cause by error without removing its cause.
- **UNITY** has as its foundation the word of God.
  - **UNION** has as its foundation liberty of opinion.

Let it be understood by all that we want **BIBLE UNITY**. Be it also understood that we believe fidelity to God must come first, and that no **UNITY** can be had with any person or any group if that person or group is in rebellion against God! We believe the Bible to teach that truth must come first. When men are walking in truth ( I John 1:7) and are in harmony with God, they will be in harmony with one another -- **UNITY** is a by-product.

We appeal to brethren to give up their unscriptural practices and come back to the word of God -- then, and only then, will there be **UNITY**.

(Taken from "Plain Truth", May 1968)