Study #21

Unity

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Lesson Commenced: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lesson Checked: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We hear lot of talk about UNITY today. On the world's political scene, we have in place the UNITED NATIONS. Many of the world's leaders are advocating and actively promoting a “ONE WORLD” global system - involving the monetary system, the judicial system, and even a common language. More significantly, we observe the present-day Ecumenical Movement which seeks to unite Christians and “churches under the banner of a ONE-WORLD RELIGION. Because there is so much talk about Christian unity these days, and because our Church is not involved at all in the ecumenical movement, the purpose of this study is to teach you what the BIBLE has to “say” about unity - the true and the false. We will see what the Bible “says” and not what it is thought to “say”.

Man's First Attempt at Unity

Turn in your Bible to ***Genesis Chapter 11:1-9*** Here you will read about events which took place soon after the great world-wide flood of Noah's day - around 2300 B.C.

1. According to ***Genesis 9:1*** God's command to Noah and his sons was to replenish the

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_.

1. According to ***Genesis 11:2*** instead of obeying God, the descendants of Noah remained in one place called the Plain of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.
2. According to ***Genesis 11:1*** the whole earth was of **ONE** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and of ONE

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (i.e., they were all talking about one thing - unity!). See ***Genesis 11:4***

1. According to ***Genesis 11:4*** the inhabitants of the world decided to build two things.

1. A \_ \_ \_ \_ an attempt to bring about *political unity*.

1. A \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ an attempt to achieve *religious unity*.
2. In ***Genesis 11:4*** the reason the people wanted to build the city and tower was what?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. According to ***verse 11:6*** the LORD decided to stop the people from building for the reason of r \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ them and their imaginations.

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1. According to ***Genesis 11:5-8*** would you say the LORD was pleased with man's attempt to bring about a “**one world**” situation? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What was the name given to this attempt? ***Genesis 11:9*** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Babel - A confusion of voices and other sounds. A confusion of tongues.

Man's Final Attempt at Unity

In the last book of the Bible - the Book of The Revelation - ***Chapters 6*** through ***19*** cover future events which will take place upon the earth after the Rapture, and over the seven-year period of Tribulation known as Daniel's 70th Week.

Without going into a detailed study of Bible Prophecy, it becomes apparent that in these godless days there will arise some form of unity. However, it will be a unity like the first attempt. It will be an attempted false unity “without God.”

1. According to ***Revelation 13:7*** the “Beast” (the Antichrist) will exercise political

power over **ALL** kindreds, tongues and \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.

1. According to ***Revelation 14:8*** the center of this **political unity** is called B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.
2. According to ***Revelation 17:1*** the great “one world” **religious system** of the last days is referred to as the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.

(We identify this as a religious system because of ***Revelation 2:20-22*** and because the Lord's true Church are likened to a “pure, chaste virgin” by way of contrast.

***2 Corinthians 11:2***; ***Ephesians 5:25-27***; ***Revelation 19:7,8***

1. God identifies this one world “church of the Antichrist” as M \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_,

B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_THE GREAT.... ***Revelation 17:5***

1. According to ***Revelation 17:1,15*** this religious system sits upon “peoples, and multitudes, and \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, and tongues.” It is truly worldwide.
2. According to ***Revelation 18:2-8*** what is the end of this final, Satan-inspired attempt at UNITY? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TRUE UNITY Versus FALSE UNITY

1. Turn in your Bible to ***Ephesian 4*** This is the “Unity Chapter” of the Word of God and deals with *true unity (vs.1-16)* as opposed to the *false unity (vs.17-32)* proposed by Satan.

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1. We hear so much in religious circles today about the need for a “spirit of unity.” In marked contrast, ***Ephesians 4:3*** commands us to keep the “\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.”

Before we look at this chapter in some detail, let's establish some Bible principles which relate to unity.

1. ***Amos 3:3*** “Can two walk together, except they be \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_?”

1. ***Ephesians 5:11*** “Have \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ with the unfruitful works of

darkness, but rather reprove them.

1. ***2 Corinthians 6:14*** “Be ye not \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ yoked together with unbelievers: for w \_ \_ \_ f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and

w \_ \_ \_ c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ hath light with darkness?”

1. Many “churches” and “religious” groups are affiliated, or in some other way associated with the World Council of Churches (W.C.C), the National Council of Churches (N.C.C), other inter-faith groups, and/or local city-wide unity groups.

UNITY- The state of oneness, concord, wholeness. Syn- Union. Ant- Discord, disparity

The chart below contrasts the differences between true Bible-based unity and these unscriptural associations:

True Unity Versus False Unity Compared

The ecumenical movement embraces all major protestant denominations and Eastern Orthodox groups, and is engaged in active dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church and most other major world (non-Bible Believing”) religions.

ONE \_ \_ \_ \_

***Ephesians 4:4***

According to ***Colossians 1:18***

The “body” is the

New Testament \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

“The Bride of Christ”

There is only “one body”

verses

ONE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Ephesians 4:4 This refers to the

 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

***1 Thessalonians 4:8***

He is also referred to the

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

***John 16:3*** and ***1 John 4:6***

He will never lie, nor mix true and false

“…depart from **the faith** giving heed to seducing \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_...,”

***1 Timothy 4:1***

Babylon will be “…the hold of every foul

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_...,” ***Revelation 18:2***

“…believe not every \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_...,”

 ***1 John 4:1***

The great ecumenical spirit of today is the Charismatic and Laodicean spirit.

verses

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ONE \_ \_ \_ \_

***Ephesians 4:4***

The one hope for the believer is the glorious \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of the Lord Jesus Christ. ***Titus 2:13***

“…that b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_”

The World council of Churches espouses its “mission” of the

“social Gospel.”

It seeks to bring about the

utopian dream society

through liberation theology and

Marxist revolution.

The W.W.C. seeks to fulfill ***Revelation*** ***21:1*** through its own agency.

verses

The Church of Rome seeks to **unite all** **Christendom** under the **lordship of the** **Pope**. Many within the ecumenical movement only pay lip service to Jesus Christ, *calling* Him "Lord," but denying the reality when they

“…do not the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ which

I \_ \_ \_?”

***Luke 6:46 John 14:15***

ONE \_ \_ \_ \_

***Ephesians 4:5***

This refers to the

L \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

***Philippians 2:11***

verses

ONE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

***Ephesians 4:5***

***Jude 3*** tells us this faith

“…was o \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ unto the saints.”

 It is the complete body of doctrine

taught in the word of God.

***Romans 10:17***

The official Statement of Faith" of the World Council of Churches is short and very general. It has to be, in order to accommodate such a wide spectrum of beliefs held by the various denominational constituents. Because the organization rejects the Bible as its absolute final authority in all matters of faith, we can understand why this is the case.

verses

ONE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

According to ***Matthew 28:19*** this is the immersion of a believer in water to set forth symbolically **the Death, Burial, and** **Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ**. An ordinance given to the Lord's Church to keep. It has nothing to do with the New Birth. It is a picture of what has already taken place. Only Born-Again Believers are eligible.

The variety of so called “baptisms” practiced amongst the denominations of the ecumenical community is staggering, and presents a real difficulty for the movement in achieving unity, because **it is not Truth**.

They practice sprinkling, pouring, immersion, and no baptism - on infants, adults, believers, unbelievers, and the dead - for salvation, with salvation, and after salvation. What a mess! God said that He was not the Author of

Confusion, Right? ***1 Corinthians 14:33***

verses

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ONE \_ \_ \_

***Ephesians 4:6***

This is the

**LORD GOD ALMIGHTY**

of the Bible. He manifests Himself

in three Persons.

*The Father, The Son,*

*The Holy Ghost*

***Deuteronomy 6:4 1 John 5:7***

A whole lot of people involved in this ecumenical unity believe in

a DIFFERENT GOD than the

 GOD of the Bible. ***Ephesians 4:6***

There are even Atheists within the ecumenical system - those who actually deny the reality of God. There are Unitarians - those that deny that Jesus is God. There are Universalists - those who believe God is the Father of all men (saved and lost), and that all will be saved anyway.

*If all of this is true, then why did Jesus Die?* His Death means absolutely zip if "all are going to be saved anyway."

God’s grace is not full of frustration like this

mess!

***Galatians 2:21***

verses

“There is a difference between church union and church unity. You can tie a dog's tail and a cat's tail together, then toss them over a clothes line. You may have union, but you certainly won't have unity.”

**General William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, defined it when he said: “I consider that the chief dangers which will confront the twentieth century will be:**

**Religion without the Holy Spirit,**

**Christianity without Christ,**

**Forgiveness without regeneration,**

 **Morality without God and**

**Heaven without Hell!”**

“Unity at the expense of Truth is treason” C.H. Spurgeon

The Unity We Need to Be Concerned About

1. Those involved in the ecumenical movement will often quote ***John 17:21*** as a “proof texts” that such a movement is of God. (This particular chapter in ***John 17*** is the "real" Lord's prayer.) The Lord says very plainly in the prayer that He is not praying for the world but for His own. ***John 17:9,10***

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1. Do you think God would have answered this prayer of His Son - or is it up to man to answer it? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Read carefully ***John 17:21-23*** and check the real desire of the Lord's prayer below.

Unity of all Christians throughout the world no matter their back round or denomination.

Unity of all religions no matter what a person believes.

1. To whom was the Epistle of 1 Corinthians initially addressed? ***1 Corinthians 1:2***

The \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_at Corinth.

1. What was a real problem in this church? ***1 Corinthians 11:18*** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
2. God's will for the church at Corinth (and every other Bible Believing Church) is that there be: No \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ in the body. ***1 Corinthians 12:25***
3. Look up the word "schism" in the dictionary. Write out the definition. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. What is the Lord's desire concerning all the members in the church?

***Ephesians 4:13***

“Till we all come in the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:”

1. Real Church Unity
2. It is significant to note that both ***Ephesians 4:16*** and ***1 Corinthians 12:12-27*** liken the church to a human body, calling it the “Body of Christ.”
3. ***Ephesians 4:16*** sees the goal of the church to have every member working together just as a fit athlete has every joint and muscle toned to perfection.
4. ***1 Corinthians 12:26*** sees the **danger** of the Church having suffering members - thus causing the work of the Lord to be “hamstrung."
5. True church unity is not having a group of "cloned" Christians all thinking the same, doing the same, liking the same things, etc. It means having a spiritually fit body with EVERY member (yes, you too!) matured, ministering, and multiplying.

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1. The AID to Church Unity

According to ***Ephesians 4:11,12*** the Lord gives to the local churches Apostles and Prophets (ministries which ceased with the completion of the word of God) and

E \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and P \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and T \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.

1. The ATTITUDE for Church Unity

List the godly attitudes needed in all members of the Church. ***Ephesians 4:2,3,32***

***1 Corinthians 13:8-10***

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1. The Command for Church Unity

Now we c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ y \_ \_, b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye w \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ yourselves from e \_ \_ \_ \_ b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.” ***2 Thessalonians 3:6***

“For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now t \_ \_ \_ that are such w \_ c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and exhort b \_ our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, be not weary in w \_ \_ \_ d \_ \_ \_ \_. And if a \_ \_ m \_ \_ obey not our w \_ \_ \_ by t \_ \_ \_

e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, n \_ \_ \_ that man, and h \_ \_ \_ n \_ c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ with him, that he m \_ \_ b \_

a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_. Yet count him not a \_ a \_ e \_ \_ \_ \_, but admonish him as a brother. Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.”

***2 Thessalonians 3:13-16; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13***

 “The Ancient Mariner”

“Have you ever read "The Ancient Mariner? I dare say you thought it one of the strangest imaginations ever put together, especially that part where the old mariner represents the corpses of all the dead men rising up to man the ship, dead men pulling the rope, dead men steering, dead men spreading sails. I thought what a strange idea that was.”

“But do you know, I have lived to see that time. I have gone into churches, and I have seen a dead man in the pulpit, a dead man as deacon, a dead man handling the plate, and dead men

sitting to hear.” ~C.H. Spurgeon~



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