

Bethel Bible Study May 29, 2014

Let Us Be Of ONE Spirit!

- A. During the next few minutes, give some examples of the various ways our culture encourages divisions, disputes, and negative divisive types of competition:
- B. What are some the things you like best about unity* when you experience it in your home, business or church?
- C. What do you think: Is it man's natural inclination to practice unity? Why or why not? :
- D. Read I Corinthians 1:10.
1. List the several exhortations Paul gives in this passage.
 2. Given the strength of the statements made in this passage, do you think Paul actually believes the Corinthians can carry them out? Why or why not?
- E. Read Philippians 2:2, Ephesians 4:1-6 and Colossians 3:12-15. Based on your reading, see if you can suggest an answer to each of the following:
1. Is unity something that just “happens”, or is there some human effort involved in receiving it?
 2. Once unity is acquired, is there anything that ought to be done to maintain it? If so, what would that be?
 3. What role does the Holy Spirit seem to play in the preservation of unity in the Church?
- F. Read Romans 16:17-20. This brief paragraph gives us some clues about the nature and practice of unity in the Church:
1. What are we to watch out for and what do we do with it when we spot it?
 2. What is the role of the Lord Jesus Christ in the preservation of unity?

3. How important is staying with the teachings of the Bible in the endeavor to preserve unity?
- G. What do you think is the greatest threat to the unity of the church today?
- H. With your group...
1. Share one insight that the Holy Spirit has spoken to you about concerning the subject of unity... or
 2. Share one area in which the Holy Spirit is saying to you, "Here is how you can help Me maintain unity in the Body...!"

[Definition: **Unity** is the state of mind and heart in which two or more people experience a common purpose and work together by a common set of principles toward the same basic goals. The presence of unity does not presume or even require some level of uniformity. It does, however, require harmony -- in much the same manner as the singers in a choir all sing but not the same notes]