

These Perilous Times
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What Do God's People believe?
Part XIV

According to the Webster's Dictionary the word unity means: *agreement, harmony, unison, and accord...*

If there is *no accord*, there is *discord*. If there is *no harmony*, there is *disharmony*, if there is *no order*, there is *chaos*.

Dr. Luke states in the book of Acts, "...when the Day of Pentecost was fully come, *they were all with one accord* in one place... *and then* they were all filled with the Holy Ghost... ¹ {Emphasis supplied}.

To respectfully disagree for the *right reason* isn't discord. To agree for the wrong reason isn't unity. As God's "remnant people" *we never* sacrifice "Bible Truth" for the sake of peace and unity.

What does this mean for us?

¹ Acts 2:1-4

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

Choir directors know that in order for a musical performance to be at its best there must be perfect harmony among the voices. No one member of the choir is independent of the other choir members unless designated by the director.

Though there may be different voices in a choir, i.e. soprano, alto, tenor, bass, and baritone etc.... They *all sing, and are in harmony* with the music being performed. Then, and only then will the choir function *as one* complete unit.

Seventh-day Adventists Believe...

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 to 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.*" ² {Rom. 12:4, 5; I Cor. 12:12-14; Matt. 28:19, 20; Ps. 133:1, 2; II Cor. 5:16, 17; Acts 17:26, 27; Gal. 3:27, 29; Col. 3:10-15; Eph. 4:14-16; 4:1-6; John 17:20-23. Emphasis supplied}.

The Basis for Unity

"It is the "*Spirit of Truth*" {John 15:26} that the Holy Spirit works to *fulfill God's promise*. His task is to *guide believers into all truth* {John 16:13}. Clearly then, *Christ-centered truth is the basis of unity* {Emphasis supplied}.

The Spirit's mission is to *guide believers into the "truth as it is in Jesus."* Such a study has a unifying effect. Yet study alone is not sufficient to bring about true union. *Fellowship, spiritual gifts, and love* are very important, but their

² Seventh-day Adventists Believe, "A Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Beliefs," 2005, pp. 201-210.

fullness comes through the *One who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life"* {John 14:6}.

Christ prayed, "Sanctify them through Thy truth. Thy word is truth" {John 17:17 Emphasis supplied}.

To experience unity, believers, then, must receive the light as it shines from the Word. As this truth as it is in Jesus dwells in the heart, it will refine, elevate, and purify the life, eliminating all prejudice and friction"³ {Emphasis supplied}.



³ Ibid. pp. 101-110.