

Unity
By Bob Young
“In unity there is power and strength”

Introduction

Various texts come to mind: John 17, Acts 1-2, Romans 14-15, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians (especially chapter 4), and Paul’s teachings about the Lord’s Supper....

Ephesians 4:1-16

Unity comes from shared purpose

Unity is related to lifestyle, attitudes, mutual support, mutuality, reciprocity

What is Unity? What is its source?

Unity is the work of God, will of God

Unity is a theological fact, not always visible, 1 Cor. 12:12-28

Unity is the result of the work of God in our baptism, 1 Cor. 12:12-13

Unity is the result of the work of God in the church, 1 Cor. 12:12-28

Unity is the result of attitudes, harmony without discord, Phil. 2:1-4

Unity is the result of developing the sacrificial, serving mind of Christ, Phil. 2:5-9

Unity is the result of attitudes and actions, Eph. 4:1-3

Unity is the result of the presence of the Holy Spirit, Eph. 4:1-3

Unity is expected, one body because of the other “ones”, Eph. 4:4-7

Unity is the result of the work of Christ among his people, Eph. 4:8-10

Unity is the result of effective leadership, Eph. 4:11-13

What Unity is not

Unity is not absolute doctrinal agreement on every detail, Romans 14-15

In Phil. 2:1-4, same mind does not mean same doctrine

Unity is not the absence of disagreements, Acts 15

Unity is not ignoring sin, Gal. 2:11ff

What are the results of Unity?

John 17, the world will believe—that God sent Jesus, that God loves them

Ephesians 2, peace

Ephesians 4, mature Christians who can withstand doctrinal challenges

Ephesians 4, a fully functioning body of Christ, the proclamation of truth with an attitude of love, a working church, the involvement and action of every member

A church where there is power and strength

Philippians 2, sacrifice and service, Jesus is glorified

What is the evidence of unity? Where is it seen?

It is seen in the nature of the church, Ephesians 1-3

Glory: Purpose, promise, prayer, plenitude, pardon, peace

It is seen in the worship of the church

Lord’s Supper—declaration of unity, singing, hearts united in prayer