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UNITY?

Roy L. Snoderly

We hear much said about unity, but no one ever tells us how to obtain unity. We hear it preached about, on the air, in the pulpit, and in private conversation and all say they want unity. Of course, we want unity -- but how much is the question--how bad or at what expense? Or should I have asked, "at whose expense?" Where do you draw the line on compromise? How much can we compromise? How far can we go? How much liberty do we have or can we use to obtain unity. What is our goal and how much can we pay to acheive that goal? Let me ask you this question before I answer the others I have put before you. Why are we not united? Can we find the answer? Yes! I think that truthfully each of you know the answer. I wish to be fair with everyone concerned so let us reason together.

Am I honest in my beliefs and reasoning? Are those who differ with me not equally honest in their beliefs? I must not try to reason that they are not honest. Why are we not united? Simply because we have not rightly divided the word of God. This is the only answer and by not rightly dividing the word of God we ere from the truth, God's word.

Isaiah 1:18 teaches us to "come let us reason together." Herein lies then the answer to unity. Are we willing to do this? Everyone will probably say yes to this question but with this reservation---that reason being that I will reason with you but you will have to accept my method or line of reasoning because I am absolutely correct in my interpretation of the Scriptures. How wrong we are for we are as the Pharisee when he prayed to God. He was glad that he was right in every aspect of his life. Alas, but how very wrong he was for Christ asked his disciples, "Who went down

to his house justified?" Who did? Not the Pharisee. How then can you or I be justified in our quest for unity if we set ourselves up as the infallable interpreters of the Scriptures and try to bind our beliefs upon others at the expense of the truth. At what expense? Not at the misinterpretation of the truth. Where can we draw the line on compromise? Only at the Scripture level. I can not overlook one of your misinterpretations of the Scripture in order to get you to do the same for me on another question. We cannot compromise. We can only do that which we are allowed to do by the written law---God's law.

How far can we go? Only to the word of God and there prayerfully find the answer to our questions. What is our goal? Heaven! How can we acheive it? By living our lives according to God's written law even if no one else is in unity with us. This and this alone is the price we can pay for unity. That of turning our backs upon all the world if necessary and turning to God, the author and finisher of our faith. No where in the written word has God promised us unity with all others nor has he given us the liberty and freedom of compromise, only the promise of eternal life if we are found faithful. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." II Timothy 2:15. Then how can we unite or in what way can we unite. John 14:6. Christ said, "I am the way". We find his way in the New Testament. Why not take his way and lay aside all pre-conceived ideas. Whether they be ours or those of some other. He gave us a pattern of worship and service to him, both in our Lord's Day services and our everyday lives. He set the pattern--we must follow. If the Bible teaches us what to do, then why do we want to do more or less than commanded. This causes a question to arise in our minds. Why will preachers plead for unity, and at the same time advocate division? They preach unity at the top of their voices and in the same breath sow the seeds of discord in the Church. Have they not read Romans 16:17?

If then the doctrine which you believe does not harmonize with Scriptures of the New Testament in every respect them undoubtedly it is not the doctrine of Christ. Can we have unity? Yes, through Gods word--the Bible. Why are we not united? Disbelief.

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The Incomparable One

More than nineteen hundred years ago there was a man born contrary to the laws of nature. This man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. He possessed neither wealth not influence. His relatives were inconspicious, and had neither training nor formal education. In infancy he startled a king; In childhood he puzzled doctors, in manhood he ruled

the course of nature. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service. He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him. He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the song writers combined. He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students. He never marshaled an army, and no leader ever had more volunteers. He never practiced psychiatry, yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near. Once each week the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes pay homage and respect to Him. The names of the past proud statesmen, scientists, philosophers and theologians have come and gone; but the name of this man abounds more and more. Although nineteen hundred years have passed since His crucifiction, yet He still lives. Herod could not destroy Him, and His grave could not hold Him. He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living personal Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Author unknown

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"Memorial"

"A THORN-CROWNED head, a surging mob; A lifted cross, a mother's sob; A piteous cry, a darkened sun; A deep-plunged spear: the deed is done. A LORD'S DAY quiet, a table spread--- The fruit of the vine, unleavened bread. Although the years have sped away, These---blest---bring back the dead. THE HEART stands still, the soul draws nigh, To hear His broken-hearted cry--- In agonizing, nail-pierced flesh; Atoning death is viewed afresh. MEMORIAL FEAST----inspiring hour for fuller service, greater power; For heart and hand are given THEE; When faith looks back to Calvary."

Author unknown

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Motives

"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man." Evil thoughts cause evil deeds.

We see many things that some people do to hinder the good efforts of others. The scriptures teach us, there will be some that oppose, exalt themselves, and some will glory in the flesh etc. These truths we should try to understand, and we must believe them.

The first question then is...What causes some to oppose almost everything? Is it fear, envy, status, etc. God only knows their motives. What ever it is, you can be sure, it isn't a Christian virture.

Realizing these terrible things exist, we must not grow weak, faint or become afraid. Remember Peter;

he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. Jesus said, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

We must also never doubt, but have faith, (may I say positive faith?) that we continue our Christian walk... teaching, writing or whatever we can do to help the cause. Always remembering WHY we say and do the things we do or don't do.

Harry Dye

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"Think On These Things"

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."

"Him---ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." "God hath made that same Jesus--- both Lord and Christ."

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight." "And behold, one like the Some of man came with the clouds of heaven and came to the ancient of days, and---"there was given him dominion and glory, and a kingdom---everlasting---shall not pass away---shall not be destroyed."

"And, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne." "And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book---sealed---." "Weep not: behold the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book and to loose the seven seals thereof." "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou was slain, and hast redeemed us to God by the blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

"And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud---and he had in his hand a little book open---." "And the voice which I heard from heaven spoke unto me again, and said, "Go and take the little book which is open---." "And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up---." "And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many

peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings."

"And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: the angel stood, saying, Rise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein."

"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. "These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before God of the earth."

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Elmer H. Hunt

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Claude Perigen, Bellflower, California

There isn't much news from Bellflower this time, the church seems to be doing very well, our young people are doing exceptionally well in their part of the teaching service.

We have had some visitors, Sis Cadwell from Modesto, California, we enjoyed her visit very much. Also, Bro Davies from Long Beach has been with us the last two Sundays. Sis Way is back with us after a visit with her daughter.

There have been lots of colds going around, but most everybody was back in church Sunday.

Our addition to the building is almost completed except for a few small items.

The wife and I had the pleasure of taking part in the get-to-gether in Somerton, Arizona, had some good preaching and singing also the fellowship and hospitality was wonderful.

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J. C. and Myrtle Whitley, Kenton, Oklahoma

We certainly enjoy getting the paper. Please except this contribution to help in any way needed.

Just the same little group attending church here. We are always glad to have anyone stop by.

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J. H. Lackey, Springfield, Colorado

Was pleased to get the two issues of the Courier.

Am sending you a check to help in financing the Courier and hope you can get help to put out the paper.

We are okay at present. The church here has not grown any lately. Too much opposition from cups and classes. They have begun services the last few months.

Let us continue earnestly for acceptable scriptural worship.

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W. A. Nelson, Somerton Shurch News

The first week-end in December, Bro Roy Babbs and Bro John Sheppard from Phoenix came over. They went to California and Bro Roy talked in Yuma. Bro Don in Somerton. Sister Smith visited here with Sis Long--- Bro and Sis Smith lived here in the late 1920's and 30's.

The 2nd Sunday we had our first try at a week end meeting--Bro and Sis Perigen came from Bellflower. Bro and Sis Johnson and family from Lake Side, California. Bro and Sis Hayes Morris and daughter and their daughter-in-law, Retha and her two children, from Kingman, Arizona. Retha is also Bro and Sis Johnson's daughter and Bro Harry Dyes' Niece; some did not get to come due to illness. It was nice to have them and all the speakers and good singing. Sis Long, Edwards and Hunter have been sick. Bro Earl Broadway and his wife have just returned from Ark. after a visit with her parents and other relatives.

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Just got word on our Delta Camp Meeting for this year. It will be July 30th through August 6th, and the camp and dorms will be ready for us July 28 and 29 so when you arrive your rooms will be ready and issued to you, so you can go straight to the camp this year. We here at Happy Hollow Church think this arrangement is much better than we have had in the past. Bro Al Burtis, Waverly Dr., Modesto, California, will be in charge of registration again this year. I believe with the help of Bro. Harry Dye of Yuma, Arizona. We haven't heard yet who will be in charge of the young boys morning assembleys, or who will be in charge of lining up the adult speakers for night services or who is in charge of the singing. But hope to know soon so it can be published also the speakers. So please let us hear from you, letting us know as soon as possible if you are coming so the speakers can be announced. Also if you would like to take charge of one of the above mentioned duties. Each year is bigger and better. More fellowship shown and more spiritual blessings, taken home to remember throughout the year. So please make your plans now to attend. You will never regret spending a glorious week with Christian friends, and the gospel preaching and singing is great. Come one, come all, come young, come old, there is a place for all who is seeking the riches of God's word. More about the camp meeting in the next issue, be watching. Put this date in your date book. JULY 30 thru AUGUST 6th, 1967. In Him, Ken Baldwin

THE CHURCH

When did the church start or have its beginning? On the day of Pentecost. This is found in Acts the 2nd chapter. Notice the 41st verse and the 49th. (41): there were added unto them about three thousand souls." (47)" "and the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved," note that always before in all scripture it speaks of the future, I.E. "I will build my church." Here we see Christ starting to build upon the foundation he has previously layed, upon the apostles whom he taught and upon whom the Holy Ghost fell revealing God's plan of redemption for fallen man. On that day "when the day of Pentecost was fully come," Christ built his Church. Why is the Church called the "Church of Christ" or for what reason should it be called by this name

and not by any other? To fully understand and answer these questions we must go back to the prophecy of Isaiah and Daniel. Isaiah 2:2-3 "and it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it. And many people shall go and say, come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." The Lord's house was to be established, his ways to be taught, his paths to be trod, his law was to go forth and his word to go forth from Jerusalem. Here the church was spoken of in prophecy. Was not Jerusalem where the diciples gathered to pray and await the promise o f the Comforter i.e. the Holy Ghost?

In Daniel's interpretation of the Kings dream he spoke of a new Kingdom. Daniel 2:44, "and in the days of these Kings shall the God of heaven set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed." Daniel here foretold of Christ and the establishment of his Church. He again saw a vision himself where one like the son of man was given a Kingdom. Dan. 7:17 and there was given him dominion, and glory, and a Kingdom--His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and his Kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." These two phrophets of old spoke of his coming and the establishment of his church. Whose Church? Christ's Church. Matt. 16:18. The one he purchased with his own Blood. Acts 20"29. It is for this reason the church wears Christ's name. For it is His property, and for that reason if there isno other it should wear his name. But there are other reasons.. First, Paul spoke of the "Churches of Christ" (Romans 16:16), that is, the congregations of his church were called "Churches of Christ. Here he makes no reference of any other church or churches by another name. Second, Paul spoke of the church as the church of the first born. (Heb. 12:23). Is not Christ the first born from the dead, physically, raised immortal, acsended up into heaven, to sit upon the throne of God? Third, Paul wrote Timothy concerning how we should behave ourselves in the house of God. He also used this same expression, Church of God, in I. Cor.1:2 where he addressed the church at Corinth as the "Church of God which is at Corinth." To the Ephesian elders he gave this command "Take heed therefore unto yourselves to feed the Church of God. Acts.20:28. In these three passages of scripture we read of the Church of God, The Church of the living God and the Church of God which he has purchased with his own blood. Not God the Father but God the Son. How then can we call that which has been called the "Church of God" The Church of Christ?

Paul wrote to the Hebrews (Hebrew 1:1-8 concerning Christ and his greatness and in the 8th verse he wrote

of God speaking to Christ "But unto the Son he saith, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of they Kingdom." We now see that the word God is a name that was given to Christ by His father (God) and that he received that name by inheritance. We must remember that there is no salvation in any other name under heaven. Acts 4:12

We teach, as the Bible t4aches, that the church was given the name, Church of Christ and that we as members of that Church were given a name also, a new name Christians. This name Christian is of individual use as speaking of people (followers) and was never given to the Church to wear as a body or group of Churches. Acts 11:26 "And the disciples were called Christian first at Antioch." This is the new name prophecied of by Isaiah. (Isa. 62:2; 65:15). The church doesn't belong to us, those who are called Christians, but we belong to the church and the church belongs to Christ. (Matt. 16:18) Here he told Peter "and I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." What! On Peter, NO. Upon Christ, "the son of the Living God." (Matt. 16:16) And on the day of pentecost we see him begin to build his church upon this cornerstone "The son of the living God, Christ. (Isa. 28:16 and Eph. 2:20-22, and Cor. 3:11) Here Peter and the other apostles begin their great work of spreading the gospel of Christ over the world in obedience to his command "go ye into all the world." (Matt. 28:18-20) We must carry on this work of spreading his gospel of truth. Not adding to or taking from his work. We must in obedience to his commands call his church by his name "The Church Of Christ" for it is his and his alone. He bought it with his lifes blood. Always remember these things. Christ is the founder and foundation (Matt. 16:18, I Cor. 3:10-11). He purchased it (Acts 20:28) and died to save it (Eph. 5:24-27). He is its head, Col. 1:18 and Eph. 1:22-23. IT IS HIS CHURCH, Eph. 5:24-27.

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Late News, Yakima, Washington & Bellflower, California

We are sorry to hear of the fire that damaged Bro Howard McCays home and the sickness they have suffered of late. When I talked to him and his wife two weeks ago on the phone, they were better and working on the repairs to their home. Bro Howard said they had a good meeting with Bro Ken Baldwin and had baptized two young men. Gene Phillips and Jimmy Lamb. We here at Bellflower are planning our meeting for this summer and if all goes well it will be in June with services each night and all day the last Saturday and Sunday with guest speakers for these two days. Watch for the dates of this meeting for you are invited to attend. Bro Marion Serrano of La Habra preached at Bellflower Feb. 12 for morning services and Bro Perigen preached at La Habra Feb 5 for their morning services. Roy