

CHRISTIAN UNITY

Ephesians 4:1 - 6

INTRODUCTION:

1. "Unity" defined: State of being one; singleness; absence of diversity.
2. "Christian Unity", therefore, is when "oneness", "singleness", and the "absence of diversity" are found among Christ's followers.
3. The purpose of this lesson is to study "Unity" from the Bible perspective.

BODY:

1. CHRIST BUILT [BUT ONE] CHURCH

- A. His promise was "I will build my church" (Mt 16:18).
- B. History reveals that for many years this "oneness" continued.
- C. The interruption of this unity was predicted (Ac 20:28 - 30; 2 The 2:3 - 12; 1 Tim 4:1 - 5)
- D. One can trace the multiplication of churches throughout history.
 1. They number several thousand now (considering all of the smaller splinter groups).

2. DOES THIS DIVISION PLEASE GOD?

- A. Christ prayed for unity (Jn 17:20, 21).
- B. Paul condemned division (1 Cor 1:10 - 13).
- C. The church is commanded to guard against division (Rom 16:17; Tit 3:10, 11; 2 Jn 9-11).
- D. Every plant, not planted by God, shall be rooted up (Mt 15:13).

3. UNITY IS RIGHT AND DESIRABLE

- A. It is both "Good" and "Pleasant" (Psa 133:1).
- B. It is an answer to Christ's prayer (Jn 17:20, 21).
- C. It recognizes the "one fold" of which Jesus spoke (Jn 10:16).
- D. All men are reconciled to God in one body (Eph 2:16).

4. THE BLESSINGS OF UNITY

- A. It gives strength and stability (Mt 12:25).
- B. It would hasten the conversion of the world (Mk 16:15, 16).
- C. It would reduce infidelity (Jn 17:20, 21).
- D. It would eliminate wasteful spending and competition.

5. CAUSES OF DIVISION

- A. Lack of respect for the word of God (Mt 15:1 - 9).
- B. Ignorance of the God's Word (Mt 22:29; Rom 10:1 - 3).
- C. Prejudice (2 Pet 3:5) [Willing ignorance].
- D. Desire for preeminence (3 Jn 1:9).
- E. These result in creeds, unscriptural names and practices which divide.
 1. It is only because we have a world full of hyphenated "Christians".

6. REMEDY FOR DIVISION

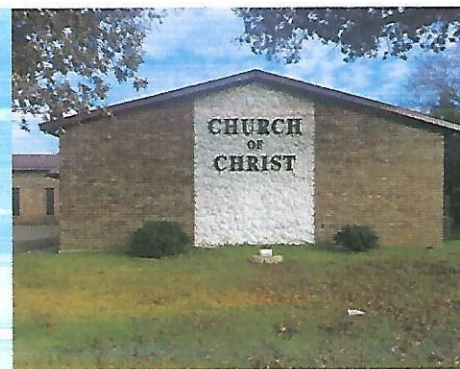
- A. All speak "the same thing" (1 Cor 1:10).
- B. All "walk by the same rule" (Php 3:16).
- C. All "walk by faith" (2 Cor 5:7), which comes by the "word of God" (Rom 10:17).

CONCLUSION:

1. The formula for unity is a simple one.
 - A. Will you renounce all human creeds and "continue stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine"?
 1. Ac 2:42

Whispering Hills

Church of Christ



Volume IV, Issue I April 05, 2020

Gathering Times

Sunday Bible Class	09:30 AM
Sunday Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	7:00 PM

Address: 2126 S. Main Street Duncanville, TX 75137

Phone: (214) 874 - 5701

Website: whchurchofchrist.net

Welcome Christians!

Leadership

Elders:

James E. Hunter, Sr
(214) 215 - 4169
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Steve Owens
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Minister:

James R. Jones
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jonesjr1cc@gmail.com

Weekly Bible Reading

06 April 2020	Jeremiah 26 - 30
07 April 2020	Jeremiah 31 - 35
08 April 2020	Jeremiah 36 - 40
09 April 2020	Jeremiah 41 - 45
10 April 2020	Jeremiah 46 - 52
11 April 2020	Lamentations
12 April 2020	Ezekiel 1 - 8

Our religious conviction: God chose to save the world by sending His son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins (Rom 10:17). Those who choose to listen and obey the Gospel message SHALL be saved (Acts 2:38). God adds them to the Church of the Bible which His Son is coming for one day (2 The 1: 7 - 10)



Bible Quiz

Joseph

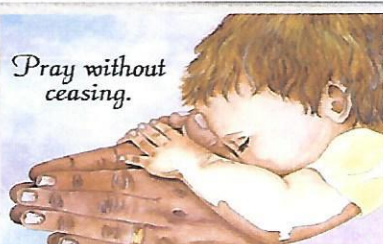
Match the question with the answer on the right.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ___ What was the name of Joseph's father? | 1. To buy grain |
| ___ What was Joseph's first dream? | 2. Potifar |
| ___ How did Joseph's brothers get rid of him? | 3. Grain money and a silver cup |
| ___ What was the name of Joseph's master in Egypt? | 4. Land of Goshen |
| ___ What did Joseph do for Pharaoh? | 5. Interpret his dreams |
| ___ How old was Joseph when he began working for Pharaoh? | 6. Jacob |
| ___ Why did Jacob initially send Joseph's brothers into Egypt? | 7. Being spies |
| ___ What did Joseph accuse his brothers of at their first meeting? | 8. Bundles of wheat bowing down to other bundles |
| ___ What did Joseph tell his servant to hide in Benjamin's sack? | 9. The butler and baker |
| ___ Where did Joseph's family live after they moved to Egypt? | 10. Throw him in a pit and sold him to strangers |



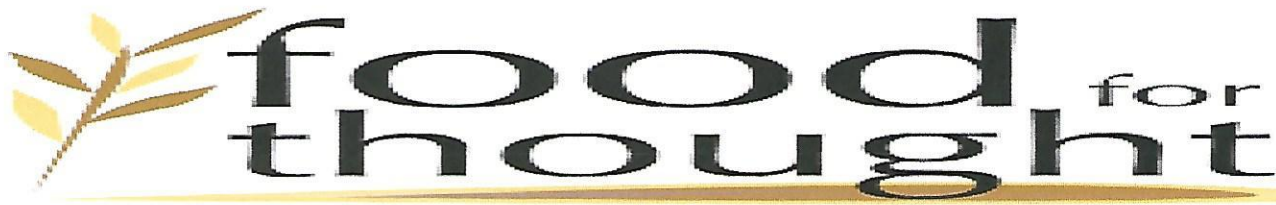
HOW TO BE SAVED

1. Hear (Rom 10:17; Jn 6:45)
2. Believe (Jn 8:24; Heb 11:6)
3. Repent (Lk 13:3,5; Ac 2:38)
4. Confess (Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9, 10)
5. Baptized (Mk 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21)



**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.**

2 Corinthians 13:14



Tact: Work on It

One who is tactful is able to say and do things in a manner which have a lesser chance of offending people. Without a doubt, some people are absolutely more tactful than others. All of us have had moments where we could have been more tactful and this speaks boldly of us. Nevertheless, over the years, we have encountered some tactless moments. In my short-lived life, many of those moments have become fewer and far between, but I am not immune to a lack of tact. As Christians, we need to be careful how we are growing in our ability to be tactful as we continue to GROW in Him, who is the epitome of the very essence of our example in this endeavor.

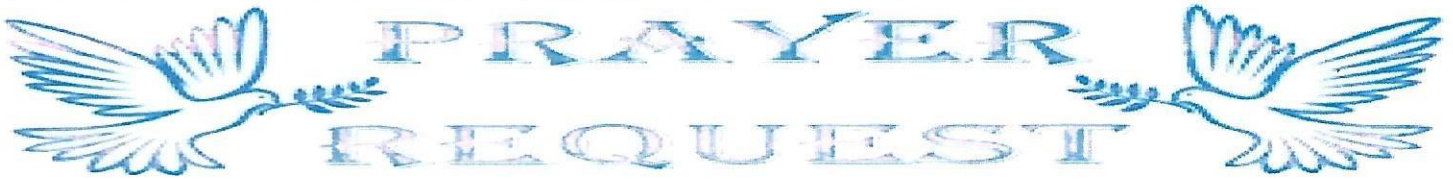
There was a fantastic lesson about “Church History” delivered on-line. The lesson was factual, contained a heart-felt plea for restoration and (for the most part) was received well by a large audience. Unfortunately, immediately following the lesson was one, who claimed to be one in Christ, decided to publicly bring a challenge on a divisive topic not addressed in the lesson. The challenge was not the problem, but the examples and timing. No visible benefit was produced. What was conveyed was insensitive, unconstructive and tactless. The one with a lack of tact did not increase their influence in reaching others. Christians, much less strangers, are less likely to seek additional Biblical instruction or guidance from this individual. Souls will not be won by these actions. What could have happened? How could the concern on one’s mind have been handled so it did not reflect negatively on oneself, other Christians and the Church as a whole?

Remember, how Apollos was discussed (Ac 18:24-28)? He was mighty in the Old Testament Scriptures and eloquent. He spoke about Jesus, boldly! Yet, due to his own ignorance, he shared the truth only in part and not in full. Aquila and Priscilla listened to his message and had some concerns. They could have publicly blasted Apollos in a tactless moment. This would have shamed their example as well as the Body of Christ. Instead, they treated him with love, respect and kindness. Having taken him to the side and spoke with him the way of God. Notice their behavior. That is the art of tact.

Do we think of what we say and do before we do it? Why not take concerned replies to others into private discussion to ensure understanding instead of a disgraceful, public squabbling? How often have you read or been exposed to someone having a conversation and it was taken out of content? Perhaps, there was some misunderstandings and misgivings which left one feeling awkward and sad. Is anyone offended? Is there a random offer to intervene to remove the negative and less profitable effect? There is a difference between sharing the truth and causing a bucket of guilt to be placed on one’s head, especially to a stranger? When Christians behave in a tactless motive, they are displaying how “pious” they are in comparison to how one should behave. What does Paul say regarding who we are to imitate (1 Cor 11:1; Php 2:4, 5).

Christianity is about a relationship with our God. While the Bible ultimately may bring offence to many, the manner in which God’s Word is shared needs to be done with kindness and thoughtfulness. Consider a few Scriptures for further study: Pro 15:1-4; 16:23, 24; Jer 17:9; Mt 12:34-37; Jn 14:15; 1 Cor 9:19-23; Eph 4:15, 29; Jas 1:26; 3:8; 1 Tim 4:16. I implore each of us to keep our words under control, sober and edifying all those with whom one may come within our sphere of influence as we share in words and actions the values of God (Psa 10:9, 10; Mt 7:21-23; Col 4:6; 1 Pet 4:11).

TACT:
THE ART OF MAKING A POINT
WITHOUT MAKING AN ENEMY



Continuous Prayers: Walter Simon, Mack & Carolyn Clouds, I.V. Jones (Bro Jones' dad), Ann Busby, Joyce Fair, Patricia Hurd, Ron Daly (friend of Bro Hunter [Indianapolis, IN]), Ron Forge, Edward Tisby, Ray & Ruby Busby (family of the Busby's), Shelia Harris, Sam Lily, Arriana Porter, Joel Sotelo Vazquez [Mexico City, Mexico], Bro Archie Greene (Unity and Leadership [Charlestown, WV])

Sick: Arthur Henry, Brenda Martin, Baby Zarkiah, Dan Allen, Jerry Birdow, Jose (Bro Santos' friend), Ruth Davenport

General: Demetria Washington, Greg Owens (Bro Owens' brother), Kelvin & Michael Porter (Sis Owens' brothers), Simon Young, Randy Murray, Darius Bell (Bro/Sis Bell's son)

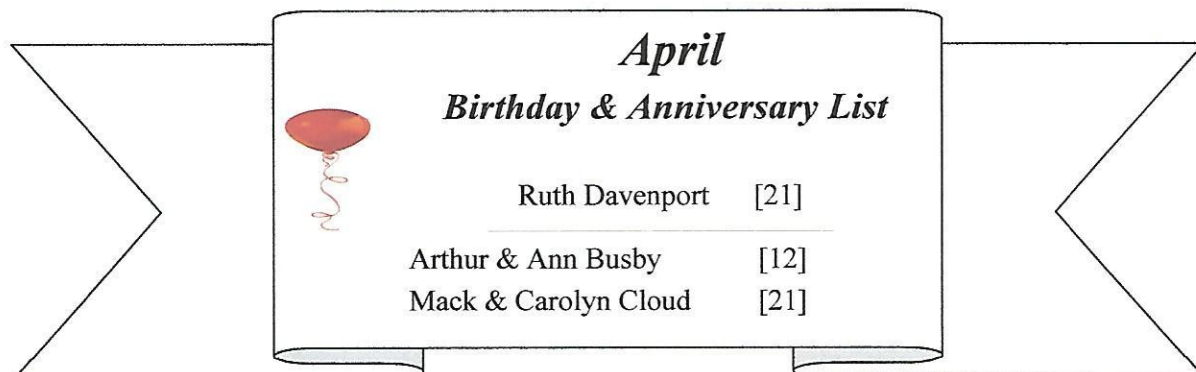
Door Knocking Campaign Prayer List: James & Charlotte Eaton

UPDATES:

1. **Sis Joyce Fair:** Home recovering
2. **Sis Ruth Davenport:** Recovering process is proceeding slowly, but effective
3. **Sam Lily:** Sis Guthrie's stepson was burnt during work; a long recovery is expected
4. **Arriana Porter:** Bro/Sis Owens' niece is hospitalized
5. **Jerome Freeman:** Bro Anderson's brother-in-law passed away
6. **Lucille Pipkins:** Bro Pipkins' (former member who relocated) sister-in-law is very ill.
7. **Patrick Roberson:** Bro/Sis Owens' nephew is ill.

Upcoming Activities/Announcements

1. **Door Knocking Campaign** Postponed until further notice.
2. **Duncanville Lectureship 2020:**
 Theme: "In The Beginning"
 Date: August 6 - 8, 2020 [Thursday, Friday & Saturday]
 Location: 2126 S. Main St Duncanville, TX 75317 [Whispering Hills Church of Christ]





Sermon Notes

1 Cor 9:16 - 18 “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.”

Subject:

Scripture Reference: