

Revival & Reformation
Lesson 7 – Unity: The Bond of Revival

1. Pull out your smart phone
2. Send a text to 99000 with a message saying “getapp”
3. You will receive a link to a website that includes a description of the app and where to go to install it.

Ephesians 4:1-3 (NKJV) *“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”.*

Mention SS NOTES

A little boy asked his sister “Why are we here on earth?” She replied, “To make others happy.” He thought for a moment then asked “Then why are the others here?”

Answering Christ’s Prayer for Unity

John 17:9–11 (NKJV) *“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may **be one** as We are.*

John 17:20–23 (NKJV) *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;²¹ that they all may **be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may **be one** in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may **be one** just as We are **one**:²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in **one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

Ephesians 4:5–6 (NKJV)⁵ *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*⁶ *one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

Psalms 133:1–3 (NKJV) *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!² It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.³ It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the Lord commanded the blessing— Life forevermore. **Facts about Geese***

***Romans 12:10** (NKJV) *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;*

***1 John 3:14–15** (NKJV) *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.¹⁵ Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

New Testament Illustrations of Unity

A Body - 1 Corinthians 12:12–14 (NKJV) *For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many. **Yank the tonsils or appendix***

A Man - Judges 20:1 (NKJV) *So all the children of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, as well as from the land of Gilead, and the congregation gathered together **as one man** before the Lord at Mizpah.*

Romans 12:4-8 *For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

A Boat - 1 Peter 3:20–22 (NKJV) *who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.²¹ There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.*

Acts 27:30–32 (NKJV) *And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow,³¹ Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, **“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”³²** Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off.*

John 13:35 *“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

A Building - 1 Peter 2:4–5 (NKJV) *Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

* **A Vine - John 15:1–2** *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

Elements of Unity: Our Mission and Message

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Acts 2:41–42 (NKJV) *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

***Acts 4:32–33** (NKJV) *Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.*

Acts 5:42 (NKJV) *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

2 Peter 1:12 (NKJV) *For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.*

Church Organization: The Structure for Unity

Acts 6:2–4 (NKJV) *Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴ but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”*

(Exodus 18:13–26) Exodus 18:17 (NKJV) *So Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “The thing that you do is not good.*

The New Testament reveals that the early church had a definite organizational structure. This structure helped to preserve the doctrinal purity of the church and keep it focused on mission.

“The same principles of piety and justice that were to guide the rulers among God’s people in the time of Moses and of David, were also to be followed by those given the oversight of the newly organized church of God in the gospel dispensation. In the work of setting things in order in all the churches, and ordaining suitable men to act as officers, the apostles held to the high standards of leadership outlined in the Old Testament Scriptures.” AA pg. 95

In Acts 6, a small group of disciples met together to solve the problem of the distribution of food to the widows of the Greek converts. They selected deacons to solve the dilemma. Church members respected the authority of these church leaders.

When the apostle Paul was converted on the Damascus Road, he was directed to Ananias, a representative of the church (Acts 9:10-17). After Paul’s baptism by Ananias, the Holy Spirit directed him to meet with the leaders of the church in Jerusalem in order to confirm his ministry (Acts 9:26-30).

In Acts 20 Paul met with the church elders from Ephesus to urge them to be on guard against false teachers and their heresies (Acts 20:17, 27-32). How did the New Testament church solve a major dispute over circumcision? Acts 15:1-31.

Acts 6:7 (NKJV) *Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

Achieving Unity

Acts 1:14 (NKJV) *These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

***Gal 5:14, 15** *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!*

“Every Christian saw in his brother a revelation of divine love and benevolence. One interest prevailed; one subject of emulation swallowed up all others. The ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ’s character and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom.”- Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 48.

Unity

One Place

Acts 2:1 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

Mat 18:20 *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."*

1 Cor 5:4 *In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

Lev 23:3 *Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.*

Heb 10:24, 25 *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Be One

When a group of thoroughbred horses are threatened by wolves they will put their heads together in a circle and kick at the wolves that try to approach.

On the other hand a group of donkeys will put their heads outward and kick each other.

Every cell in your body-whether a nerve cell, a skin cell, or a brain cell-contains an identical, highly complex genetic code within the DNA. (DNA is short for deoxyribonucleic acid, and is the genetic material of all cellular organisms.) The point Paul is making in this passage is that members of the church, while composed of many different parts, all share an identical "genetic code." It is identified in Ephesians 4:5, 6: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." This genetic code, which is the map for who we are as a people, is identical for each one of us and should permanently bind us together to form one body.

For many years it was a common practice for doctors to yank the tonsils out of anyone who repeatedly complained of a sore throat. When I was young, my throat was sore all the time, so my doctor finally decided that I had "bad tonsils." Because he was operating under the assumption that they were an unnecessary part of my anatomy, he promptly removed them, thinking that he was doing me a big favor. However, the problem wasn't with my tonsils; it was with my lifestyle. I was eating junk food all the time, and as a result, my tonsils were constantly inflamed. Since

then, doctors have realized that the tonsils are not just some evolutionary "vestigial remnant." They serve a distinct purpose in helping to protect the pharynx from invasion by disease-producing bacteria.

"Oh, how many times, when I have seemed to be in the presence of God and holy angels, I have heard the angel voice saying, 'Press together, press together, press together. Do not let Satan cast his hellish shadow between brethren. Press together; in unity there is strength.'" Selected Messages, Vol. 2, p. 374.

Redwoods are unique trees for several reasons. For one thing, they grow successfully only in groves. One of the ranchers near my house in Covelo planted a redwood tree, and it grew very quickly to be hundreds of feet tall. But then a storm came along and blew it right over. This is because the coastal redwood does not send down a taproot. Its roots are only a few feet deep, even though the tree itself might be 360 feet tall. Coastal redwoods survive by growing in groves. The trees spread out their roots and interweave them with the roots of other trees. Then, when the wind comes, they hold each other up because their roots are knit and interlocked together. By themselves, they don't stand very long.

Facts about Geese

FACT 1:

As each goose flaps its wings it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

LESSON:

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

FACT 2:

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

LESSON:

If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

FACT 3:

When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies to the point position.

LESSON:

It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts, talents or resources.

FACT 4:

The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

LESSON:

We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

FACT 5:

When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then, they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

LESSON:

If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.