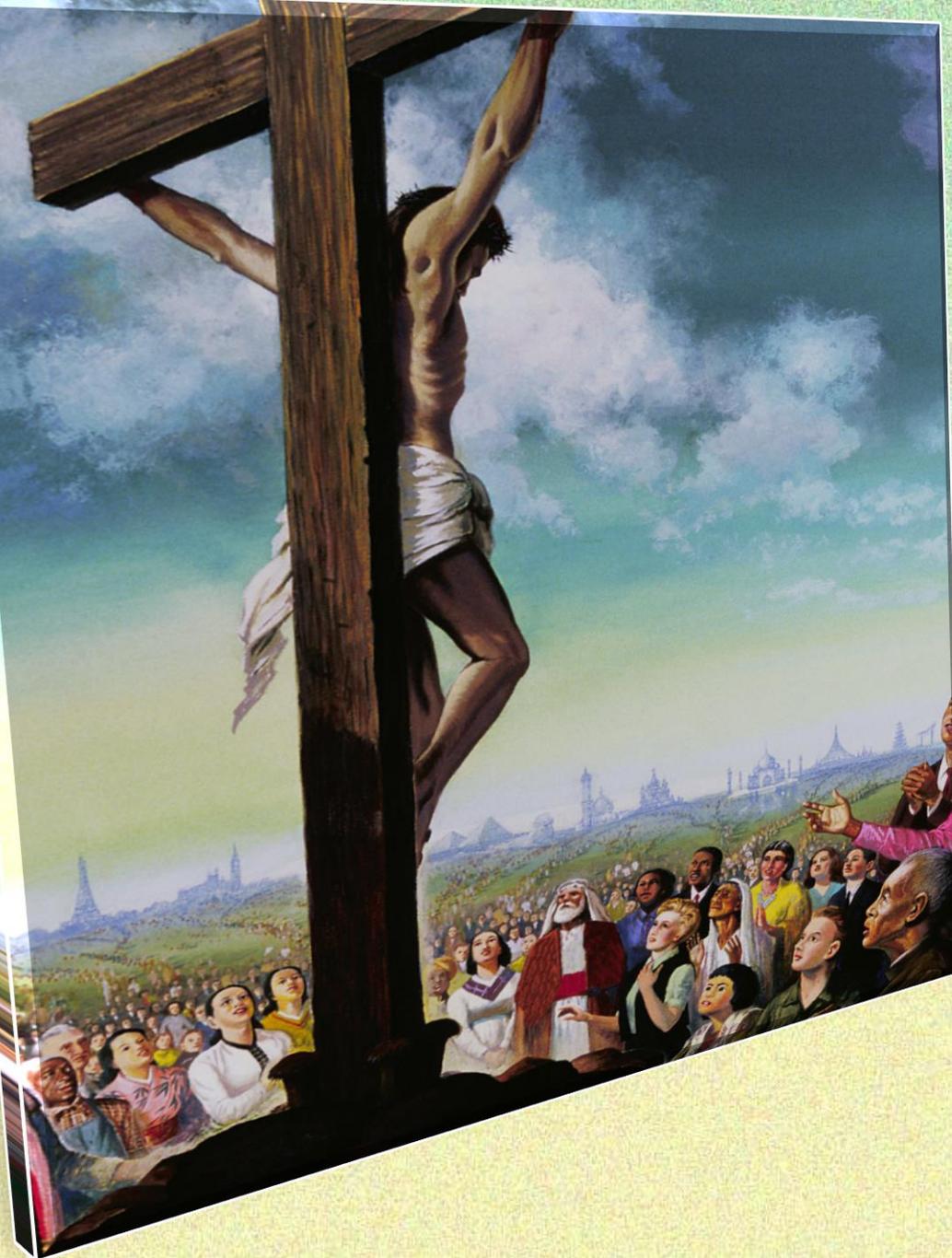


THE MOST CONVINCING PROOF



Lesson 9 for December 1, 2018

When we accept the salvation that Christ proved on the cross, we are united with Him in a covenant. We are reconciled with God and with men. Our lives are transformed. The believers unite in a common mission, which sets our differences aside.

01 UNITED IN CHRIST

02 UNITED IN RECONCILIATION

03 UNITED IN PRACTICE

04 UNITED IN THE DIFFERENCES

05 UNITED IN MISSION



UNITED IN CHRIST

“that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.” (Ephesians 1:10)



We are saved by Jesus' death and resurrection. We are united in Christ once we accept this salvation.

The second goal of the plan of Salvation is fulfilled because we are united in one Savior: “He would gather together in one the children of God.” (John 11:52)



When we are baptized, we are accepting Jesus publicly, and a bond is created with our new brothers and sisters.

“One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Ephesians 4:5-6)





UNITED IN RECONCILIATION

"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:18)

The death of Jesus brought down the wall between Jews and Gentiles. They were reconciled and became one people (Ephesians 2:13-16).

God wants to unite all His children. The ministry of reconciliation consists of three facets:

Reconciliation with God

- We were far from God, but we were reconciled to Him by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Reconciliation with our brothers and sisters

- Our unity in Christ is shown by the peace and harmony among us.

Universal reconciliation

- We are called to invite others to be reconciled with God



Inasmuch as the church cultivates unity and reconciliation, the universe sees the working out of God's eternal wisdom (Ephesians 3:8-11).

UNITED IN PRACTICE

"He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." (1 John 2:6)



Accepting Jesus is not just a mental assent. This action changes our lives in a practical way.

Our feelings and behavior change, and unity grows stronger.



A life that's transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit is the most powerful testimony before the world (1 Peter 2:11-12).

The Bible explains how our lives are transformed. For example, see Ephesians 4:25-5:2, Colossians 3:1-17, Matthew 7:12, Galatians 6:2, 1 Peter 3:3-4, 1 Corinthians 10:31...



UNITED IN PRACTICE

According to the previous verses, what must Christians stop doing?

Fornication

Impurity

Lust

Evil desires

Greed

Wrath

Anger

Malice

Blasphemy

**Dishonest
words**

**Corrupted
words**

Lying

Stealing

Grief

Shouting

Ostentation



UNITED IN PRACTICE

According to the previous verses, what must Christians do?

Meditate on heavenly things

Being holy

Walking in love

Having mercy

Being kind

Being humble

Being calm

Being patient

Bearing others

Forgiving others

Putting on love

Seeking peace

Being thankful

Studying the Word

Being wise

Singing to the Lord

Doing everything for God's glory

Speaking what is helpful

Being kind

Being merciful

Imitating God

Looking after others' well-being

Carrying others' burdens

Seeking inner spirituality

Having a healthy lifestyle

UNITED IN THE DIFFERENCES



“Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.”

(Romans 14:6 NIV)

In Romans 14-15, Paul deals with issues that were causing division in the local church in Rome.

Those were issues about habits, traditions and problems of conscience. For example, observing the feasts, days of fasting, refraining from eating meat sacrificed to idols...

Paul advised both parties to be tolerant, because those weren't issues related to salvation.

That is a wise piece of advice. It can help us to be united in the Church today.



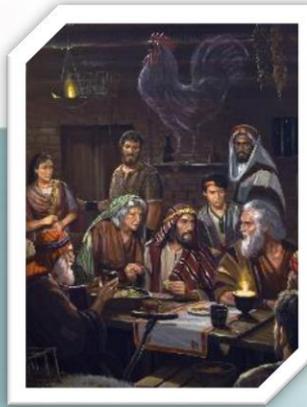
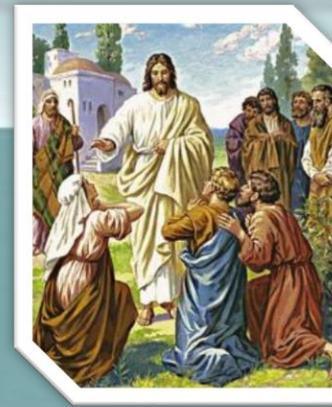
UNITED IN MISSION

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

During the period before Pentecost, the disciples were trying to be the greatest among others (Luke 22:24).

To fulfill their mission (Acts 1:8), they had to reject those thoughts and seek unity. How could they do that?

They came to God in prayer and asked one another for forgiveness. They stopped throwing their mistakes in one another's face. Nobody was accusing Peter of betraying Jesus, James and John of being selfish, or Thomas of being skeptical.



How can we learn to put aside the mistakes of others, all for the greater cause of fulfilling our mission?



E.G.W. (Counsels for the Church, cp. 4, p. 45)

“When Christ’s prayer is fully believed, when its instruction is brought into the daily life of God’s people, unity of action will be seen in our ranks. Brother will be bound to brother by the golden bonds of the love of Christ. The Spirit of God alone can bring about this oneness. He who sanctified Himself can sanctify His disciples. United with Him, they will be united with one another in the most holy faith. When we strive for this unity as God desires us to strive for it, it will come to us.”