

## Unity Only in Christ

April 4, 2019

### Ephesians 2:11-12 ESV

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands--

12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

*John 4:7-9 ESV*

7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?"  
(For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

*Luke 10:30-33 ESV*

30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.

32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

- Because of the fallen human nature, we view others in terms of superiority and inferiority of all different kinds and layers of levels.
- We see others at all different levels based upon human and earthly criteria such as race, religion, economic status, education, position, status, fame, career, age, possessions, preferences, sports, hobbies, etc.
- Additionally, the carnality and sin in our flesh make our human, earthly perception even worse by adding hatred, jealousy, rivalry, strife and unforgiveness.

### Ephesians 2:13-17 ESV

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

## The Cross - The Great Leveler and Only Unifier

*Romans 6:3-5 ESV*

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Galatians 3:27-28 ESV

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 ESV

16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

- Our common need for the mercy and the forgiveness of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the great leveler and the only unifier.
- At the cross we are all equal, no one superior, no one inferior. We are all equally sinful, equally under judgment, equally in need of a Savior, equally in need of a sin substitute to carry away our sins, equally in need Jesus' blood to cleanse us white as soon, equally in need of God's mercy, forgiveness and grace.
- Because Jesus bore all of my sin in His body, and all of your sin in His body, we are forever united as one in the body of Christ, in His death and resurrection on Calvary's cross, supernaturally and for all eternity. We are united in Christ in a way that natural man cannot perceive and could never replicate.
- Governmental legislation, elected officials, media campaigns and humanistic movements will never reform or unify our culture and nation, because none of those efforts can change the heart.
- Only hearts that have repented of their pride and selfishness, have surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus, and have been regenerated and transformed by the Word and Spirit of God, can produce true, lasting change and unity.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 ESV

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

15 [INFERIORITY] If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?

18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

19 If all were a single member, where would the body be?

20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

21 [SUPERIORITY] The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the

feet, "I have no need of you."

22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,

24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,

25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Romans 12:3-5 ESV

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Philippians 2:1-8 ESV

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,

2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.