

## **That we may be one as the Father and the Son are one**

(John 17:21-23)

- I. Beholding God's Glory** (John 17:24, 5, 22)
  - A. God's desire is to reveal Himself**
  - B. Whenever God appears we behold His glory**  
(Acts 7:2; John 1:14; Eph. 1:17)
  - C. God's testimonial becoming more explicit and clear-cut over time**
    - 1. In the time of the Old Testament
      - a. In creation with man as its focus (Rom. 1:18-23; Psalm 8:5-7)
      - b. In His speaking to men and His acts (Exo. 16:10; Isa. 40:4-5)
      - c. In His dwelling place among men (Gen. 40:34; 1Kings 8:11)
    - 2. During the age of the New Covenant (New Testament)
      - a. In Jesus Christ (John 1:14, 18; John 5:36; 14:9-10)
      - b. In His church (1Tim. 3:15-16; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:9-10, 21)
    - 3. In the coming age in the New Jerusalem  
(Rev. 21:2, 10-11)
  - D. We are predestined for the testimonial of His glory** (1.Petr. 5:10; 2Pet. 1:3)
    - 1. Our experience already today (Hebr. 2:10; John 17:22; Phil. 4:19; Eph. 1:18; 3:16)
    - 2. Our future hope (Col. 1:27; 2Thess. 2:13-14)

**E. The effect**

1. We are being transformed into His image  
(2Cor. 3:18)
2. For the world to know and believe (John 17:20-23)
3. Creation is to be restored  
(Rom. 8:19-22)

**II. The Mystery of Godliness: God is Manifested in the Flesh** (1Tim. 3:16)

**A. Christ, the Father's focus and His good pleasure**

1. The Father is in him and he is in the Father  
(John 14:10-11; Isa. 9:6)
2. Knowing the Son and the Father (John 17:3;  
1John 5:20; Eph.1:17; Phil. 3:10)

**B. The life of Jesus on earth**

1. As a man manifesting and expressing God  
(John 1:17; John 14:8ff; Hebr. 1:3)
2. Not of this world  
(John 8:23; John 17:14, 16; Col. 2:8)
3. In perfect oneness with the Father (John 10:30;  
Col. 2:9; John 8:29)
4. Not a behavior but by God's life  
(John 1:4; John 5:19; John 8:28)

**C. The oneness between the Father and the Son is a blessing for the whole universe**

1. We behold the Father and life is manifested  
(John 1:14; Col. 1:15; 1John 1:1-2)
2. Grace and truth came or (became real) through Him  
(John 1:17; 14:6)

**III. Jesus Includes us in this Oneness** (John 14:1-6; John 17:11; Phil. 2:9-10; Acts 4:12; Hebr. 2:9-10)

**A. By His work in the flesh: death and resurrection**  
(John 12:24-26; 2Kor. 5:14-17)

**B. As the Spirit of life in us – the new creation**  
(2Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; 1Petr. 1:3)

1. In the name of Jesus – salvation and deliverance  
(Acts 2:21; 3:14-16; 4:12; John 17:11-12)
2. In the word of life – light and truth  
(John 17:8, 17)

**C. The outcome: Jesus brings together**

1. Being united in His name (Acts 1:14; 2:42-44, 47)
2. A glorious church (Eph. 5:27; John 17:20-23)

**D. Our decision: a purpose of heart**  
(Acts 11:23-26)

1. The Lord is waiting for our consent  
(Deut. 30:14-20; Psalm 110:3; 119:108)
  - a. A landmark decision: faith and baptism  
(Acts 2:37-41; 2Pet. 1:10-11)
  - b. A daily decision: walking in Christ (Col. 2:6-7)
  - c. Coming to the word (Luk. 6:47-48)
2. A commitment to build up God's dwelling place  
(Psalm 132:4-5)
3. God working in us to will and to do (Phil. 2:13)

**IV. The Secret of Unity – Abiding in Christ** (John 17:20-26; 15:1-8)

**A. We need a revelation concerning our standing in Christ**

1. Our unity is possible only when we are made one with Him (John 17:12, 21, 23, 24, 26)
2. The image of the vine and the branches: Life flowing in us enabling us to bear fruit to the effect of unity (John 15:1-8; Gal. 5:22-23)
3. Abiding in Christ, as we are already in Him (John 17:24; 1Cor. 1:30; Eph. 2:6; Psalm 73:23)

**B. How do we abide in Christ?**

1. The cleansing work of the Father as the vinedresser by His word and His chastisement (John 15:2-3; Hebr. 12:9-10)
2. The Spirit, the anointing teaching us (John 16:13; 1John 2:27)
3. Irrespective of feelings based on the word, by faith, in spirit (2Cor. 3:16-18; 4:18; Hebr. 12:1-2; Micah 7:7)
4. Being joined to the Lord (1Cor. 6:17; Rom. 8:5-6; 10:12-13; Col. 3:1-2; 1Thess. 5:17; 2Tim. 3:14-17)

**C. Abiding in the love of Christ** (John 15:9-11)

1. As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in my love (John 15:9-11)
2. Love edifies (1Cor. 8:1; Eph. 4:15-16)

## **V. Our Sanctification for Unity**

(John 17:17-19; Eph. 3:17-19; 4:1-4)

### **A. Knowing Christ within us**

1. Christ in us is our hope of glory (Col. 1:27)
2. Inner oneness = oneness with the Lord  
(John 14:20; 17:3; Eph. 3:16)
3. Knowing Christ enables us to comprehend Him together with all the saints (Eph. 3:17-19)

### **B. With Faith and love for God and the Saints**

1. Experiencing the Lord in order to love the saints  
(Phlm. 5; 1John 2:10)
2. Faith and love belong together  
(Phil. 1:6; 1Cor. 13:1ff)
3. Without love there is no unity
4. Every member of the body is essential and important  
(1Cor. 12)
5. Our being built up in love is a vital issue to the Lord  
(2Petr. 1:4-7)

### **C. Unity through the Spirit**

1. The concern of the Lord in John 17: Faith and oneness (John 17:8, 11, 20-23)
2. Being built up as a dwelling for God in the spirit  
(Eph. 2:22; Mt. 16:15-18, 22-24)
3. United, our access to the Father is unimpaired and without middle walls (Eph. 2:18-19, 14-15)

### **D. Holiness as the Fruit of the Spirit for Unity**

1. What does "holy" mean for God? (Lev. 19:2-4, 9-18, 34-36)
2. Holiness is the basic substance for unity
3. Sanctification happens by touching the triune God  
(John 17:17)
4. Sanctification brings us to completion  
(2Cor. 7:1; 1Thess 5:23)

## **VI. Baptized into one Body and made to drink of one Spirit**

### **A. Reconciled in one body by the cross**

(Eph. 2:16)

### **B. Our status after baptism**

1. The old self is crucified with Him and we are dead to sin (Rom. 6:6-7)
2. Baptized into one body (1Cor. 12:13)
3. Knowing the Spirit (1Cor. 2:10, 14-16; Gal. 5:25)

### **C. Our experience of the cross leads to completion in unity (John 17:23)**

1. The unity of the body is practical in the local church (Acts 2:41-42, 46; 1Cor. 12:15-26)
2. Each and every saint is vital to the body (1Cor. 12:7-8, 15, 21, 25; Eph. 4:16)
3. The natural self is crucified. Treating all that hinders and destroys unity (1Cor. 1:12-13; Gal. 2:19-21; 1Cor. 2:2; Rom. 15:7; Phil. 2:3-4; Phil. 4:2; Gal. 2:14)

### **D. Making every effort to keep the unity of the spirit (Eph. 4:3)**

1. We are all saturated in one Spirit and drink of one Spirit (1Cor. 12:13; John 7:37-39)
2. The Lord promises the blessing: eternal life (Ps. 133)
3. Christ is the head. (Col. 3:18-19)
4. Our hearts are knit together (Col. 2:2; Eph. 4:16; 1Cor. 12:26)

## **VII. God's Testimonial: the Unity of the Local Church**

### **A. God's will: Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:32; 1Cor. 1:30)**

1. Prophecies concerning the cross (John 1:29, 36; 11:50-52)
2. Earthly living and dying in oneness with the Father (John 5:19; Lk. 22:42)
3. For the unity of the believers (John 10:11, 16-17)
4. His Prayer according to God's will in John 17 is fulfilled
5. The Resurrected – as the Spirit – builds His glorious churches in unity, each at its locality, (Acts, from chap. 2; Eph. 5:25-27) and shepherds them until the end (Acts 8:1; 13:1; Rom. 1:7; Gal. 1:2; Rev. 1:11 - 3:22; 22:16)

### **B. Attacks of the enemy from without and within against holiness and unity**

1. Prophecies of the Lord (Mt. 16:18-19, 23-25)
2. Experiences of the church in Jerusalem
3. Paulus' warnings and prophecies (Acts 20:29-30)

### **C. Division within the church at Corinth (1Cor. chap. 1-4)**

### **D. Today's testimony of unity through the local church**

1. A testimony against the world and religion
2. Before the principalities and powers of heaven (Eph. 3:10-11)
3. For the Lord: His Church, His Body, the fullness, through the Unity in Spirit (Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:1-6)

### **E. The church of the first love to the Lord and to the saints (Rev. 2:4-5; 1John 4:16)**

## **VIII. The perfect Unity – the New Jerusalem** (Rev. 21)

### **A. The goal of God's acts**

1. Rule over the earth (Gen. 1:26; Rev. 2:26-27)
2. The bride (Rev. 21:2)

### **B. Division ends with Babylon** (Rev. 17 und 18)

1. Abandoning the first love
2. Mingling with the world
3. The works and teachings of the Nicolaitians
4. The teaching of Jezebel
5. Becoming lukewarm

### **C. The golden lampstands** (Rev. 1:20; Ex. 25:31-39)

1. Each local church = a golden Lampstand
  - a. The light of the world (Mt. 5:14-16; Rev. 21:24)
  - b. Formed from one piece of purified gold
  - c. One God – one expression – one testimonial
2. The local churches are independent and yet one among themselves
  - a. Christ, walking among the churches (Rev. 1:13)
  - b. The Spirit speaks to all churches (Rev. 2:7)

### **D. The completion – the New Jerusalem**

(Rev. 21:2, 10-11)

1. The bride of the Lamb
2. Heavenly, new, displaying God's glory
2. She is heavenly, new and possesses the glory of God.