God Loves Unity!

A thousand years before Jesus was born, God inspired King David to write, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in **unity**!” Psalm 133:1. The night of Jesus’ arrest, He prayed, “I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in **unity**, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me,” John 17:23. In Ephesians 4:3, Paul commanded the Christians in the congregation in Ephesus, “being diligent to preserve the **unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Then in verse 13 he calls us into a deep maturity that will culminate with, “…being diligent to preserve the **unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Two main things are needed for Christians to be unified in the manner and to the extent that God calls for. The first is *agape* love. That is the love that seeks the highest good of another. In Colossians, God is giving us many important teachings that bring us closer to Him. After a particularly precious section in chapter 3, we come to verse 14, “Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of **unity**.” Did you catch it? Even after getting other things in order, we are to put on love so that we can maintain the practical, personal unity which keeps us glued to each other’s hearts. (Mounce goes so far at to translate this verse, “And cover all these virtues with love, which is the bond that leads to perfection.”

But we must not miss the second item required for unity. We see it in 1 Corinthians 1:10, “Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.” *For unity to be a true, biblical unity, we must teach and preach the same things!*

Over the centuries, men have created many doctrines that are simply not found in God’s word. When those things are taught as doctrines, they inevitably divide God’s people into ungodly groups. When that happens God’s scriptural call for unity becomes a farce.

There is only one biblical remedy for the mess in which modern Christendom finds itself. That remedy is as profound as it is simple. We absolutely must “…learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other,” 1 Corinthians 4:6. As soon as we step outside the bounds of “what is written” in scripture, we sow the seeds of division. Notice also that when someone does that, it gives birth to arrogance. Perhaps there is no greater arrogance on earth than to tell God or man, “My human ideas are better than your written scripture!”

May God bless all our members and congregations and all who purport to call on Him, world-wide, to maintain the unity God loves, in both *agape* love and by not going beyond what is written in His precious word.

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