

THE PURPOSE OF UNITY

Genesis 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

It is always a beautiful thing to have unity. All who love God dwell in perfect harmony with his will. Unity leads to security, peace, progress and prosperity among individuals and nations. Every great and worthy goal is only achieved through unity. No wonder the Psalmist praises unity:

Psalm 133:1 [[A Song of degrees of David.]] Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133:2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

Psalm 133:3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Psalm 133 reveals the true source of all unity – it is the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The organs in the human body are united through the blood that courses through the veins and arteries. Similarly, the human spirit can only be united by the Spirit of God which is compared to oil flowing gracefully down from the head to toe. Now, the people of earth had one language and one speech. This means that they not only shared the same language but said the same thing – they were of the same utterance. When their leaders or spokespersons spoke, they truly spoke on behalf of all barring none. This is unity of speech and mind; one accord. Such unity is very powerful. Humans have accomplished mighty things in the past through such unity. Among others, countries have been founded on such unity, scientists have conquered space and even landed on the moon through unity, diseases have been eradicated through unity, dangerous dictators have been defeated through unity and, even on the level of more banal spheres such as entertainment, sports teams have attained glory through unity. “It was a team effort” is a mantra we often hear.

Genesis 11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

They journeyed from the east. Every journey has a purpose, but God was not part of that purpose. They found the plain of Shinar and they dwelt there. Who did they consult? Certainly not God. Unity which ignores God is always doomed to end in disaster. Does this not sound like Lot? “And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the

garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar” (Genesis 13:10). Let us beware of the unity of the people which does not seek the counsel of God. Jehoshaphat was truly a God-fearing King. Ahab the evil King of Israel wanted Jehoshaphat his friend to join him, but Jehoshaphat asked to first consult the Lord. The prophets united in their pronouncement that the Kings would defeat their enemy, but Jehoshaphat did not accept this unity – he discerned there was something wrong in this unity. One has to be righteous and courageous in order to reject the united prophesying of 400 hundred prophets.

***1Kings 22:7** And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?*

***1Kings 22:8** And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.*

Once again, beware the unity that is not from the Lord Jesus Christ. It will lead to disaster. The people of the Tower of Babel lost their unity, their city, their tower and, worst of all, their language. Their unity had great purpose, but that purpose was contrary to the will and command of God. “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:28). To replenish is to fill the earth but the generation of the Tower of Babel intentionally rebelled against this command. How much would they have accomplished if they were united in the will of the Lord? What was the price for the God’s greatest promise in the book of Joel to be fulfilled? “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions” (Joel 2:28). For Joel 2:28 to be fulfilled, 120 disciples had to be in one mind and one accord eagerly praying for and anticipating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

***Act 2:1** And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

***Act 2:2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

Is there a greater prophecy and its fulfilment than the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the entire Bible? With all due respect, even the physical return of the Lord is not greater than the outpouring of the Holy Spirit because the Lord will only rapture those who are filled with the Holy Spirit. “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God

dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:9). In fact, the second return of the Lord in Armageddon is the judgement of the world. It is a good thing for the people of God to be in unity – one mind and one accord to receive the Holy Spirit. This should be the purpose of unity. Jesus has to return at time because the world will be in one mind to rebel against him. “These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast” (Revelation 17:13). We come around full circle to the Tower of Babel. Finally, thousands of years later, the world will be in unity again – but the purpose of this unity is unholy. This will be the last time the world will be in an unholy unity for an unholy purpose.

Phil 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Let this be the purpose of our unity – to strive together for the faith of the gospel. It will reap eternal benefits. God will bless this unity. See the unity of the Apostles and first Christians in Jerusalem. “And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:44-47). May the Lord Jesus give us the unity of the Apostles in 2024 to strive together for the gospel!