



Oologah observer

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

UNITY

Chuck Northrop

Whether a person speaks about a family, a work force, or the church, unity is of vital importance. When unity exists, it is truly sweet. The Psalmist exclaimed, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1). If unity exists, it is because everyone involved is striving for it. The inspired apostle Paul expressed, “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;” (Philippians 1:27). An attitude of “standing fast in one spirit” and an attitude of “striving together” creates an atmosphere of unity.

Jesus Prayed for Unity

In the true Lord’s Prayer (John 17), Jesus prayed for the unity of all believers. Jesus petitioned the Father saying, “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:” (John 17:21-22). The petition of Jesus to the Father for the unity of all believers provides sufficient evidence true unity is possible. Many people press for unity which is not real unity. They call it by different names but no matter how they refer to it, it is not unity.

Notice the quality of unity for which Jesus prayed was as “we are one” (i.e. as the Father and the Son are one). The unity which existed and exists between the Father and the Son was not some pseudo-unity in which they agreed to disagree. It was a unity of love, mind, and purpose. This is the unity Christians should seek.

The Reality of Unity

There are two facts which help us understand unity can be a reality. First, Jesus prayed for unity, and, second, unity existed in the church in the first century. The church in the first century had their problems as the church does in this century. They needed to be encouraged to maintain unity as we need to be encouraged to maintain unity. The words of encouragement by inspired men informs us they (and the Holy Spirit) knew unity can exist in the church. To the Philippians Paul wrote, “Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind” (Philippians 2:2). Peter exhorted, “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous” (1 Peter 3:8). John wrote about unity when by inspiration he proclaimed, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). Since the Holy Spirit entreats us to strive for and to maintain unity, we must make every effort to have the kind of unity that existed between the Father and the Son.

The Basis For Unity

There is a standard for *all* that pertain to religion. The standard is the word of God. It is the standard for which unity is based. The word of God teaches what man must do in order to be saved. All those who truly seek to understand and to do what God says concerning salvation stand together on the standard of God’s word. The sacred scriptures teach how men are to worship God. All those who truly seek to understand and to do what God declared concerning worship stand together on the standard of God’s word. The word of God teaches how men are to serve God. All those who truly seek to understand and to do what God said concerning service stand together on the standard of God’s word. When men leave the standard, they wander off into apostasy. Concerning unity, when men leave the standard, they create disunity and discord.

Therefore, let us all endeavor to gain and to maintain the unity for which Jesus prayed. Let us never quit in our toil to understand the standard for all things pertaining to religion. And let us ever “stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” ■

“Choose You this Day...”

Toney L. Smith

Life is filled with decisions. We must make choices as to which car we will buy, or which house will best suit our families. Some of these decisions are insignificant and of little consequence, while others are far-reaching and are very important in our daily lives. The greatest decision in our lives is found in the question: **“Whom Shall I Serve?”**

In Joshua 24:15 Joshua gave the people a choice when he said “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” King David urged his son to serve God in 1 Chronicles 28:9. Jesus said that we must decide whom we will serve. He tells us that it is impossible to serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). Man cannot serve God and Satan at the same time. Sometimes men are confused as to whom they will serve, or how they can be in the Lord’s service. The scripture says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil...” (James 4:7). Men often become confused concerning these relationships. They resist God and submit to the devil. They get things turned around and we give the feast to the world and the leftovers are offered to God. The action on our part gives evidence as to which of the two we have chosen.

When men submit to the devil they have given in to the temptations and to the lusts of the world (James 1:18-22). Sometimes men allow their hearts to be filled with pride (James 4:6-7) and become covetous and dishonest (James 5:1-4). Submitting to the devil causes us to err from the truth and will eventually lead to our becoming unfaithful members of the Lord’s church.

Men resist God when they refuse to hear, believe, and obey His word (James 1:18-22). They reject the Son of God when they reject and receive not His word (John 12:48), and thus they lose their power to overcome the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:11). Serving God will always bring a sure victory over Satan (1 Corinthians 10:13). The apostle Paul was persuaded that He would win the battle, “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless, I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Timothy 1:12). He expected to receive the victorious crown, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7-8). These things would be his because he chose to serve the Lord!

Your choice is not: Will we serve someone? The question is, **Whom Will We Serve, God or Satan.** The only good answer is the one Joshua made, **“...as for Me and My House We Will Serve the Lord.”** The decision is yours, and it will be the greatest one you will ever make. There is coming a day when we will rejoice in the decision to faithfully serve the Lord.

Observations and Concerns

March 27, 2024

Welcome Visitors! We are excited to have YOU with us today.

Praise in Psalm: “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits” (Psalm 103:2).

Declaration of Appreciation: Let us remember this week to give thanks to our Father in heaven for those who spoke during our lectureship this past weekend.

Our in-house **lectureship** went well, and each speaker did a fine job. It was a great encouragement especially considering the size of this congregation being able to host such a lectureship. We also appreciate those who brought food for the noon meal on Saturday. It was truly a delight.

Our **monthly youth devo** is scheduled for Friday, April 5th at 6:00 PM at the church building. Pizza will be provided. Please bring a favorite side or dessert.

There is a **VBS** sign-up sheet in the foyer for those who would like to help with VBS. It is scheduled for June 9-12 at 6:30 PM.

We extend our sympathy to the Moses family on the passing of **Tricia Moses**. The Moses family are long-time members at the Ramona congregation.

Weleetka Gospel Meeting: April 7-10; Mark Lance will be the speaker.

Azalea Gospel Meeting: April 14-17; Matt McBrayer will be the speaker.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Bill Dilks** had a cat scan recently, and we are thankful that he received good results.
- ▶ **Walter Jackson** fell recently and hurt his shoulder.
- ▶ **Darla Smith** has been ill and unable to be with us.
- ▶ **Pat Taylor** struggles with her health and is scheduled for carotid artery surgery May 14th.
- ▶ **Glen Beaman**, brother of Dicie Jackson, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, March 27	Sunday, March 31 AM	Sunday, March 31 PM
Sundays			
Bible Classes 9:30 AM	Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
Worship 10:30 AM	Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
Worship 5:00 PM	Bill Dilks	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks
(except 2 nd Sunday – 2 PM)			
Lord’s Supper (speaker)		Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson
Lord’s Supper		Chris Nelson	
Wednesdays			
Bible Classes 7:00 PM	Doyle Jackson	Bill Dilks	Chuck Northrop
Website: oologahcofc.org	Ross Swearingen	Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson
	Door Attendant	Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson