

UNITY

John 17:1-11 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, **that they may be one, as we are.**

Ephesians 4:1-6, 13 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; **Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** There is **one body**, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all... **Till we all come in the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ

ChoG Talks about unity probably more than any other church group, yet hey are probably the most divided group in existence.

This lesson was taken directly from the little known about pamphlet titled **The Teachings of D. S. Warner and his Associates** by C. W. Naylor. It was published independently and is believed to be written in 1949. He died in February 1950. It was not widely circulated due to its contents. It put to question some of the key foundational stones that the ChoG movement was built upon, not unlike that which we have done in recent months and years. Sadly, this little book got C W Naylor in a lot of trouble with the ChoG “establishment”, who would rather have kept him silently confined within his four walls.

I had an extensive talk with a brother last night on this subject. He believed that there are some areas of doctrine that we must be in complete agreement on to be in fellowship (unity). His list was a much different list that any list I could have come up with, had I chosen a list.

Naylor Said: “A great ground swell of desire for unity is rising throughout Christendom. It is imperative at this time that efforts to restore unity be such that they truly aid rather than

obstruct its restoration. Some have advocated a type of unity that never existed, and never can exist, in this world.”

PATTERN UNITY

Unity is a by-product and cannot be produced by direct or forced methods. Preaching unity often hinders rather than helps the cause of unity. That is because the effort is to produce unity directly, a thing that never can be done.

Moreover, the unity that is preached is commonly a pattern unity. By pattern unity I mean (1) a pattern of doctrine is preached, (2) a theology that everyone is expected to accept; (3) a pattern of behavior is set up and all are expected to behave according to this pattern. (4) A pattern of organization and church government is set up which everyone is expected to accept and to which he is expected to conform. (5) A pattern of worship is set up, and this pattern is made a standard; in other words, the unity sought is uniformity.

Pattern unity, therefore, can never bring about the unity of all Christians. It is the wrong type of unity. Unity does not mean uniformity.

Discuss Pattern Unity

- When you think of Uniform, what do you think of? All alike. Clones. No distinguishing factors. No uniqueness.
- Absolute agreement of doctrine will never be achieved,
- Early church did not have it (Jews and Gentiles) nor any church movement since

BASIS OF UNITY

There are four things that are the basis of true Christian unity.

1. The first is the recognition and acceptance of all Christians, simply because of their relation with Christ.
2. The second is love of all Christians, just because they are Christians.
3. The third, fellowship with all Christians, based on confidence toward all Christians.
4. Fourth, a co-operative attitude toward all Christians.

These four bases of Christian unity must be universal in their nature. They must include all Christians. A unity that is limited to a group is not Christian Unity--it is group unity. The unity of the church must be on a universal basis or it never will be attained, and it must have unanimity as its keynote.

Unanimity - Sharing the same opinions or views; being in complete harmony or accord.

Thought: We must first be unanimous in our view of unity, before we will be united.

Paul said it this way: Unity of the spirit, before unity of the faith (belief)

FOUR ROADS TO UNITY

Four roads to unity are being advocated or followed.

1. **X** - They are federation or federal union, which is the uniting of all Christian groups into a federation, with each group maintaining its identity and its general characteristics.
 - Federation - a federated body formed by a number of nations, states, societies, unions, etc., each retaining control of its own internal affairs.
2. **X** - The second road is amalgamation; that is, the uniting of denominations, making one denomination out of two or more.
 - Amalgamate - to mix or merge so as to make a combination; blend
 - Barnyard Unity
3. The third road is that of nondenominational mingling, not on a denominational basis at all, but on a purely Christian basis. The results being produced are not the results of preaching unity nor of trying to organize for unity. They are the natural indirect fruits of the conditions being set up. Denominationalism fades into the background. Their differences are temporarily forgotten and through this mingling, becoming acquainted, sensing each other's spirit, developing a common fellowship, real and true unity, which is always informal unity, is being produced very extensively.
4. **X** - The fourth road to unity is calling people out of other groups into one group. This may or may not produce unity. Merely bringing people together cannot create unity. We know all too well from sad experience that many people have come to us as a group and have professed to be in unity who very soon proved they were not in unity, but were troublemakers or never were able to fit in. So calling people into one group does not guarantee the unity of that group, neither does it create unity with other groups of Christians. On the contrary, it is likely to set up within the group a narrow and exclusive type of unity which is often a hindrance to true universal Christian unity.
 - Was tried by the ChoG and has simply produced yet another sect(s)

Talk about the four different kinds of unity

1 and 2 will never do
Number 4, we tried before
but number 3, now that's for me!