Unity With Christians
(Part 2)

John 17:20-23

1

Applying The Principles Of Unity

What is the standard of unity? cf. Matthew 21:23-27

1. Sheep hear the shepherd's voice. John 10:1-5 *"The apostles' doctrine."* Acts 2:42 (cf. 2 John 9)
2. Must abide in his commandments. John 8:31; 1 John 2
3. Apostolic traditions. 2 Thessalonians 2:15 (cf. 2 Timothy 1:13)
4. Revealed message. 1 John 1:3-5

2

Applying The Principles Of Unity

First century applications.

1. Simon the sorcerer. Acts 8:18ff
2. Apostle Peter. Galatians 2:11ff
3. The Romans. Romans 16:17ff
4. The Corinthians. 1 Corinthians 1:10; 4:17
   Called into fellowship by the gospel. 1 Corinthians 1:9
5. The Galatians. Galatians 1:6; 2:5; 5:4

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Applying The Principles Of Unity

First century applications. 1, 2, 3 John

- 1 John 3:17 Some lacked compassion for the needy.
- 1 John 4:3 Some denied Jesus came in the flesh.
- 3 John 9 Some had usurped authority.

These walked in error and *"hath not God."* 1 John 4:6; 5:2-3; 2 John 9-11

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Applying The Principles Of Unity

NOTE:

When men walk by another standard, unity is disrupted, fellowship is broken.

Warnings: 1 Timothy 1:10; 6:3; 2 Timothy 1:13; 4:3-4; Titus 1:9; 2:1

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Applying The Principles Of Unity

Modern Applications:

1. Plea to "speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent." cf. 1 Peter 4:11.
2. Missionary Society in 1849.
3. Instrumental music introduced in Midway, KY in 1859.
4. Sponsoring church (Organizational Concept) introduced in 1910 in Henderson, TN
   a. Defeated then, but became a reality in 1950's with the introduction of the Herald of Truth in Abilene, TX.

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Applying The Principles Of Unity

Modern Applications:

5. Human institutions, sales and social services, recreation, and all kinds of social programs.

6. These principles can be applied to moral issues, gambling, drinking, marriage, etc.

7. We need to reaffirm the old plea … the only true unity is unity based on the word of God. cf. Jeremiah 6:16

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