

A Life of Service... Unity

Real men don't need instructions. We need instruction manuals, an operator's manual

Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.

(NIV) Proverbs 16:20

Ephesians is a great instruction manual for the church

If you did not read it we could get off track of what we are to know and do

PRAY

Seven acclamations with the use of the word ONE

Even though it have seven "ones" it is put in three parts as a Trinitarian statement

The first triad We are united by the same identity.

There is one body and

here is one of the metaphors for the church

though we have different members we have one body indwelled by His Spirit

the body of Christ is the church today 1:23

Jewish and Gentile believers alike

"each congregation is a local manifestation of this heavenly entity"

I belong

How?

one Spirit

I Cor. 6:19; 3:16

We are members by the work of the Spirit

just as you were called to one hope when you were called

our hope springs from our calling

1:18 the hope of His calling- we are called to a particular hope

4:4 the grand hope of eternity

Our anticipation motivates our work and calling

this unity is not like a mechanical unity with gears but a spiritual and organic as it grows

We are united by the same identity.

We are united with the same testimony.

one Lord.

Lord in the OT is the title for God's personal name Yahweh

Jesus is Lord

I Cor. 8:5-6

⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), ⁶ yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

one faith.

with this unity we have this great story, a testimony

The common set of beliefs we have together

Jude 3

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. the summary of the NT books

There is not one faith for Jews and one for Gentiles,
not one for the Lutherans and a different faith for the Baptists
church history denominations as a tree

it is important to state denominational differences as we align with the gospel.

Yet there is ultimate unity for all who are in Christ
differences are honorable and important but not vital.

We may differ on small matters but not the essentials of the faith.

There can only be one faith since there is one Lord

one baptism:

there are 2 main types of baptism mentioned in scripture

baptism in the Spirit which happens at conversion – the spiritual union with Christ and entrance into the body of Christ

Gal. 3:26-27 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

there is also water baptism

the outward sign in the inward change of new life for those who believe

We are united by the same identity.

We are united with the same testimony.

We are united in the same family.

one God and Father of all.

we are of the same family because of the same Father

you may have had the best or the worst dad here on earth,
but as a Christian you have the greatest Father

we are brothers and sisters in Christ

A brother with a different perspective or who has offended me I must see that the Holy Spirit is in him and he is in Christ. Christ died for them, they have great value to God.

I Then must honor with actions and words, forgive.

Get rid of divisions among us and honor and love

God the Father has great affection for us.

Each one of us v.7 each of the members of the church

He we have God the Father's universal rule and presence.

who is over all and
through all and in all.

Uses all to accomplish His will

Communion

Special announcement about feeding prisoners

Matt. 25