



True Unity

By Alfonso Orellana

Unity is a word that carries such power to move the conscience and as such it is a word that has been misused over the centuries. It has been used in different terms ranging from “ecumenism” to “middle ground.” Unity is one of those words that is so political; it gives one such an advantage when he uses it in public. It makes one look good by promoting it, even if the motives behind it are not biblically sound.

I believe it is time for us to pick up the word unity and mend it from its misuse. It is time for us as a church to become living examples of what true unity is, for as we will learn, this principle is a powerful tool in God’s hands to bring each one of us into complete harmony with Himself.

In Ephesians 4:13 we find that the word unity is the means to an end. The end being that of character perfection. It is the glorious truth of measuring up to Christ! How can we attain that most precious state? What is the formula? It is the UNITY of two things:

- The unity of the faith
- The unity of the knowledge of the Son of God

Notice that by attaining to these two unities, and consequently growing up into Christ, then we will not be deceived any more by all the different winds of doctrine that blow around us (v. 14). It is also worth noting that there are two conditions and they are inseparable one from the other. Both are needed for the Christian to succeed in his walk towards eternity.

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Isaiah 58 – A Divine Prescription

From Welfare Ministry, Chapter 3

The whole of the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah is to be regarded as a message for this time, to be given over and over again.

I have been instructed to refer our people to the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah. Read this chapter carefully and understand the kind of ministry that will bring life into the churches. The work of the gospel is to be carried by means of our liberality as well as by our labors. When you meet suffering souls who need help, give it to them. When you find those who are hungry, feed them. In doing this you will be working in lines of Christ's ministry. The Master's holy work was a benevolent work. Let our people everywhere be encouraged to have a part in it.

As a people we must take hold of this work. Love revealed for suffering humanity gives significance and power to the truth.

The fast which God can accept is described. It is to deal thy bread to the hungry and to bring the poor which are cast out to thy house. Wait not for them to come to you. The labor rests not on them to hunt you up and entreat of you a home for themselves. You are to search for them and bring them to your house. You are to draw out your soul after them. You are with one hand to reach up and by faith take hold of the mighty arm which brings salvation, while with the other hand of love you reach the oppressed and relieve them. It is impossible for you to fasten upon the arm of God with one hand while the other is employed in ministering to your own pleasure.

If you engage in this work of mercy and love, will the work prove too hard for you? Will you fail and be crushed under the burden, and your family be deprived of your assistance and influence? Oh, no; God has carefully removed all doubts upon this question, by a pledge to you on condition of your obedience. This promise covers all that the most exacting, the most hesitating, could crave. “Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily.” Only believe that He is faithful that hath promised. God can renew the physical strength. And

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The Greek meaning of the word translated unity literally means “oneness.” So Ephesians 4:13 could read like this: “Till we all come to the *oneness* of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God.” What comes to mind when you first read this word “oneness”? The first thing that came to my mind is the atonement or “at-one-ment,” which is what Christ has done as my Substitute and continues to do as my High Priest. He is restoring my “oneness” with God. The “oneness” that Adam once lost. Unity involves the atonement of Christ and if part of that atonement is missing, then the unity is compromised. It is a counterfeit unity. The Bible clearly teaches that the way Christ makes us one with God is by His sacrifice and by His ministry as our High Priest in the heavenly Sanctuary (Justification and Sanctification).

*“Where this oneness exists, it is evidence that the image of God is being restored in humanity, that a new principle of life has been implanted. It shows that there is power in the divine nature to withstand the supernatural agencies of evil, and that the grace of God subdues the selfishness inherent in the natural heart.”*The Desire of Ages, p. 678

Three principles must be understood in order for us to exercise true unity:

Unity is based on Truth (Genesis 3:7-21)

Adam and Eve seemed pretty united in the idea of sewing fig leaves together and wearing them in an attempt to “fix” the wrong. But when God, the Truth came along, that unity was shown to be based on error.

Unity is brought by the Holy Spirit (Psalm 133)

Unity is compared to oil. The oil represents the Holy Spirit and the righteousness of God. This oil running down over Aaron represents the indwelling of the Holy Spirit having full control of the individual. Eternal life is brought about by this kind of unity. Notice the connection between these verses and John 17:3.

Unity must be guarded (Ephesians 4:3)

The word here used as “keep” means to “guard from loss or injury.” As we do this, we grow together, we edify each other. All in peace. I accept what the Spirit teaches me through a brother or sister because I can see that the teaching is based on truth. *“God’s chosen ones are to reveal to the world their union one with another. God’s people are a unit. If some entertain ideas so peculiar that God’s people cannot accept them, they should compare notes in a teachable spirit and be willing to learn. They should make the most strenuous efforts to be one, to come into the unity of the faith in the bonds of peace. [James 2:12-18 quoted.]”* Manuscript Releases Vol. 11, p. 49. Bible study and continual surrender to the will of God are necessary (Eph. 4:13).

Now that we have defined what true unity is, we are in a position to understand what Jesus meant when He said:

“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.” John 17:21

The inevitable result of us being united like this is a powerful witness that will transform the lives of others and will bring them into the truth. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain is imminent when a church is united like this.

I invite each one of you to unite upon these principles. To work the appointed part which God has given you so that all together can come unto “a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” ❖

Following the Divine Prescription

By Brad and Helen White

The Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist Church – Owasso was wonderfully blessed last year by the assistance we supplied to many area families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. We helped twelve very grateful families at Thanksgiving (more than 45 individuals within those families) with food and personal care products. The smiling faces and praises to God were many. In late December we were blessed to be able to help 11 of those same families. The excitement and gratitude of the family members was a wonderful praise to God for His blessings. They came out and helped unload bags and bags of food and other essentials from our vehicles.

We contacted several local agencies in Owasso, Skiatook and Collinsville to collect names and information about families and individuals who had requested assistance. There were some who really stood out. One family was going through a situation where three generations (grandmother, mother, and children), were living in the same house and the grandmother was the only one with a job. The major concern was that the grandmother had cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Our hearts went out to them from the first conversation on the phone. Just as we were planning this operation the weather began to turn cold and the two children needed coats, so one of our families provided them with new coats that they wore all through the first day. The young boy wanted to sleep in his coat that night! We provided literature for the family and a new Bible to the grandmother who needed larger print. The family was so very appreciative of the help.

Another family had an unfortunate circumstance; an older woman’s son was in a car accident and was severely injured. As a result of the accident he has permanent physical and mental handicaps so he had to move back in with his mother. She is on a fixed income and has a hard time supporting his needs as well as her own. We were blessed to provide them with assistance in their hour of need.

THREE ANGELS KITCHEN

Quick Mini Pizza

From Wellspring Healthy Cooking

Preheat oven to 375F.

Have ready:

4 full pieces whole wheat pita bread, or other whole grain flat bread

Spread on the four pieces of bread:

Garlic puree* (opt.)

Pizza sauce or spaghetti sauce

Sprinkle of Italian seasoning

Top with your favorite topping. For example:

- Morningstar Farms Meal Starters Grillers Recipe Crumbles**
- Olives, sliced
- Green peppers, sliced
- Onions, finely chopped
- Mushrooms, sliced
- Tomatoes, chopped
- Parsley, minced
- Non-dairy mozzarella cheese, grated
- Non-dairy parmesan cheese

Place mini pizzas on a tray and bake at 375F for 15-20 minutes. Serve immediately.

*To make garlic puree, cut the top quarter off whole heads of garlic so all the cloves are exposed. Drizzle the cloves with olive oil. Turn the garlic heads cut side down on a baking dish lined with parchment paper or foil and bake at 325F for 1 – 1 1/4 hours. Let garlic heads cool. Squeeze soft garlic flesh out of heads and mash with a fork. 5 heads yields approximately 1/2 cup of garlic puree. Store in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks in the refrigerator.

**You can find the Morningstar Farms Meal Starters Grillers Recipe Crumbles at Reasor's, Walmart, Wild Oats, or Akins.

The head of a family of eight in Skiatook had lost his job and the mother's income was insufficient to provide anything beyond the most bare of essentials. We were able to make contact with the mother of the family at her work and let her know we would provide her with assistance. She was moved to tears in her gratitude.

When we first tried to initiate contact with this family via phone, however, we happened to speak with the man's own mother, who was raising his brother's daughter. This young girl was mentally handicapped and they also needed assistance as the grandmother was unable to work due to health problems. The woman and her granddaughter were quickly added to our distribution list.



One of our vans being loaded.

Spiritual food, in the way of literature, was provided to each and every family along with physical nourishment. Health information was included as well. We are blessed and thankful to be able to share God's bounty with others and to have a church family that is so readily willing to give of their time and resources so that this church can make a positive impact in the community. The local need for not only physical but spiritual assistance is great, and we hope to be able to do more in the years to come.

May the Lord return soon. ❖

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 – Jeanie Webb | 11 – Theresa Parks |
| 3 – Ruth Qualls | 12 – Sherry Frasco |
| 4 – Terri Swan | 15 – Tom Ward |
| 8 – Judy Oxley | 24 – Robert Hayward |

Let not corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

(Ephesians 4:29)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Healthy Choices Cooking Classes

Place: Three Angels SDA Church - Owasso
Time: Sunday, March 11 (2-4 PM); ongoing monthly.

Come enjoy health videos by renowned doctors and health professionals as well as food samples, gift drawings, and more!

Revelation Seminar

Place: Three Angels SDA Church - Owasso
Time: Each Wednesday at 7:00 PM

Each Wednesday evening, we delve into the fascinating prophecies of the book of Revelation using a question and answer format with a colorful study guide for each lesson. These in-depth studies will provide you will valuable insights crucial to our times. Come join us as we pray and study together to learn what God has to share with us in these last days of earth's history.

Issues of Present Truth with Carl Martin

Place: Three Angels SDA Church – Owasso
Time: Friday, March 30 at 7:00 PM. Sabbath, March 31 starting at 11 AM (four meetings).

Topics include:

- Our side of the Covenant
- The Mind of Christ in the Remnant
- Satan in the Courtroom
- His Life and Ours
- Believe His Prophets.

Stop Smoking Seminar

Coming soon!
Location and Time: To be announced

more, He says He will do it. And the promise does not end here. “Thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward.” God will build a fortification around thee. The promise does not stop even here. “Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I am.” If ye put down oppression and remove the speaking of vanity, if ye draw out your soul to the hungry, “then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: and the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought [famine], and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.”

The work specified in these words [Isaiah 58] is the work God requires His people to do. It is a work of God's own appointment. With the work of advocating the commandments of God and repairing the breach that has been made in the law of God, we are to mingle compassion for suffering humanity. We are to show supreme love to God; we are to exalt His memorial, which has been trodden down by unholy feet; and with this we are to manifest mercy, benevolence, and the tenderest pity for the fallen race. “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” As a people we must take hold of this work. Love revealed for suffering humanity gives significance and power to the truth.

When the church accepts its God-given work, the promise is: “Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward.” ❖

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Worship Schedule

Saturday (Sabbath)

Sabbath School.....9:30am
Main Worship Service.....10:45am

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting.....7:00pm

Send comments/suggestions about this newsletter to
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

