



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## The Importance of Unity

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! (Psalms 133:1)

The Bible describes unity of brethren who dwell together as a good and pleasant thing. It is good because there is peace among the saints of God. It is pleasant because there is no strife, division, biting or devouring taking place within the household of God.

Unity however, does not come without effort being made by each and every family member. Paul mentions several actions that are transpiring in the lives of the saints that solidify a unified effort within a congregation. (Ephesians 4:1-3)

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

#1 Each member is to live their life in such a way to bring glory and honor to the Head of the church.

#2 Our attitude towards one another needs to be right – humble, gentle, longsuffering, bearing with each other (supporting each other)

#3 Each member has to work at it – “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit” – each member has various likes, dislikes, backgrounds, talents and education – you have to work at it to avoid conflict and division.

“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” (Ephesians 4:16)

#4 The bond is peace – all saints are bound together like the ligaments that hold a human body together. Another phrase the Bible uses is “one accord”

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple..” (Acts 2:46)

Unity can be achieved if each one of us puts forth the necessary effort, rallying round the word of God (Acts 2:42); each molding his/her life into the of Christ (Romans 8:29); bearing with each other all along the way (Galatians 6:2).

STACY



## Fellowship in Worship

Jordon Smith

“Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who has promised is faithful: and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:22-25).

When we assemble together and worship God it is important to keep in mind that God is present. When we are in the midst of God, especially in our service unto Him, we must remember that He is our Creator and we must give Him due respect. In Exodus 3:1-5 we read of God communicating to Moses through the burning bush and in verse 5 God says, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." Like Moses, when we come together to worship God, or even in our individual worship, we must approach God with reverence and respect.

In John 4:24 we are told that "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." This type of worship, which God requires of us, demands the inner self. We cannot just simply be in attendance for each worship service because that is not enough. "These people honor Me with their lips, yet their hearts are far from Me" (Matt. 15:8). We are to be attentive to every aspect of the worship service. We are to pray with those who lead the public prayers, we are to sing (Ephesians 5:19; Col. 3:16) out unto the Lord to praise Him. When the preacher begins his sermon it is not time to take a short nap, we should pay close attention to the words he speaks because he is revealing the commandments of God. If Jesus were the one speaking would you pay closer attention? Would you miss the opportunity to hear Him speak? If you say you would pay closer attention, then why? Is not the preacher presenting the teachings and words of Christ? "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). If you walk by faith then His spiritual presence will be just as important to us as His physical presence. Therefore, as we assemble together, we must worship with our whole self, from our hearts, so our worship may be found pleasing in the sight of God and encouraging to those we are worshipping with.

## GEMS From HEAVEN

Albert Dickson

How many of us feel like we are useless in the Kingdom of God? I would say many of us do. We see ourselves from a monetary possession of things. If we do not have certain material things then we are useless.

**Here is the GEM:** with God it is not about monetary things, it is about our God-given abilities and attitude towards those abilities. Every last one of us has ability or has abilities; we just need to allow God to tap into our heart and release in us those abilities to fulfill His will in our lives and the lives of others. When you read the passages below, take note of the things you can do and perhaps are doing. May God be praised when put to use for His Kingdom.

*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. **Romans 12:9-17***