

“Unity - The Power of ONE”
May 9, 2010
Acts 1-4

A. Why do we need unity? Relationships are so much work

B. What unity is NOT:

1. Unhealthy conformity
2. Agreement in everything
3. An issue of who’s “right” and “wrong”

C. What is biblical unity?

Fact: *Bound together as ONE in a spiritual family.*

Ephesians 4:3 *There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*

Experience: *Spiritual miracle of ONENess.*

Acts 4:32 *All the believers were one in heart and mind.*

D. Last week’s MESSAGE: *Unity means praying together in Jesus’ name.* Matthew 18:19

E. Today’s MESSAGE: *Unity means submitting to one another in the Spirit’s power.*

“Submit” – SERVING even when it doesn’t make sense. Voluntary attitude of placing another’s needs above our own: cooperating, sharing a burden.

Ephesians 4:3 *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 5:21 *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

TEXT – Acts 2

The disciples experienced the promised gift of the Holy Spirit powerfully uniting them.

Miracles of unity – ONE common experience, the worship of ONE Lord in every language, ONE gospel message, ONE response (conviction), ONE repentance of sin & baptism, ONE “comm-unity”, ONE purpose.

F. Keeping the unity of the Holy Spirit was hard work, and required submission.

- * Disciples different personality strengths and weaknesses.
- * Relationship between Peter and Paul – work!

Galatians 2:11-12

**G. Keeping the unity of the Spirit is still hard work!
So PRAY and SUBMIT!**

H. Application Questions: In what relationship, or setting do you desire to experience unity? Are you praying in unity with someone? Since unity requires sacrificial submission, what do you need to sacrifice in order to submit to Christ, another person, His Word, and His will?

MESSAGE: *Unity means submitting to one another in the Spirit’s power.*

Galatians 5: ²⁴*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*

²⁵**Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.** ²⁶*Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*