



Examining the One Another Passages

**Q1 2020 Adult Class
Discussion led by Tim Torno**

The One Another Passages



Review from Last Week

1. We studied last week in Romans 12:10 that we are “in honor to give preference to one another”. How do we go about doing that?
2. Why is this difficult for some in the Lord’s church?
3. Who are some other beings or persons we are to honor inside and outside of the local church?

Be of the Same Mind with One Another



Introduction

Rom 12:16

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.

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Rom 15:5-6

5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to *be of the same mind with one another* according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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What does it mean to “be of the same mind toward” or “be of the same mind with one another”?

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Introduction

To the church in Corinth-1 Cor 1:10

10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that *you all agree and that there be no divisions among you*, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

To the church in Philippi-Phil 1:27

27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, *with one mind striving together* for the faith of the gospel;

To the churches in Asia-1 Peter 3:8-9

8 To sum up, all of you *be harmonious*, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

Why was this exhortation so frequency cited?

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Oneness Taught by Jesus

John 17:11

11 "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, *that they may be one even as We are.*

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Oneness Taught by Jesus

John 17:20-23

20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 *that they may all be one*; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, *that they may be one, just as We are one*; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be *perfected in unity*, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

Jesus prayed for “oneness”. Why so?

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Oneness Taught by Jesus

Discussion Question #2: Christ's prayer in John 17:20-23 stresses His concern over "oneness" of His followers. Read this passage and consider the following:

- a. If you had been one of Jesus' disciples who heard his prayer, how would you have reacted to it?
- b. What does it mean to you to know that Jesus prayed this prayer for us in the Lord's church today?

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Oneness Taught by Paul

Phil 2:1-4:

2 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by *being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.* 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind *regard one another as more important than yourselves;* 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

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How do we achieve oneness in the Lord's church?

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The Opposite of Oneness-division and strife

Matt 7:15

15 "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 "You will know them by their fruits.

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Acts 20:28-30

8 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

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What are some characteristics of those who cause division and strife in the Lord's church?

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The Opposite of Oneness-division and strife

1 Cor 11:18-19

18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it.

19 For there *must also be factions among you*, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.

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Why does Paul say that factions (division) are sometimes necessary?

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The church in Jerusalem-example of Oneness

Acts 2:44-47

44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things *in common*; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing *with one mind* in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals *together* with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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The church in Jerusalem-example of Oneness

Acts 4:32

32 And the congregation of those who believed was of *one heart and soul*; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were *common* property to them.

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Discussion Question #3: Read Acts 2:42-47 concerning the church in Jerusalem shortly after the day of Pentecost. Answer the following questions:

- a. What evidences of unity in the early church would you find to be most compelling if you were an unbeliever in that day?
- b. What evidences of unity do you see in our local church today?

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The church in Jerusalem-example of Oneness

Acts 6:7

7 The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.
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What are the results of unity in the church? What are the results of disunity?

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1. Expect to have Unity in the Lord's Church

Eph 4:4-6

4 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 *being diligent* to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is *one body and one Spirit*, just as also you were called in *one hope* of your calling; 5 *one Lord, one faith, one baptism*, 6 *one God and Father* of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Discussion Question #1. One of Satan's primary strategies is to destroy unity among Christians in the Lord's church. Read Ephesians 4:1-6 and address the following question:

- a. What is the "unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace" referred to here by Paul? Why is it critical to the growth and strength of the local church?

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2. Avoid Unrighteous Judgment of One Another

Rom 14:10-13

10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD."

12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this — not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

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What does Paul say here is a obstacle or stumbling block to our brother?

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3. Build One Another Up Instead

Rom 14:19

19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

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How do we promote unity (oneness) in areas of judgment or opinion (not truth)?

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4. Be a Peacemaker whenever Possible

Rom 12:17-18

17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, *so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.*

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What is the principle of being at peace with all men?
Is this possible all of the time?

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Questions for Thought and Discussion:

Question 2c. What does our unity in the Lord's church reflect to the outside world? What are some practical and biblical methods to promote "being of the same mind with one another"?