


THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH


Lesson 9










**"Being diligent to preserve
the unity of the Spirit in
the bond of peace. There
is one body and one Spirit,
just as also you were called
in one hope of your calling;
one Lord, one faith, one
baptism."**

(Ephesians 4:3-5 NASB)



Besides acting in each one of us, the Holy Spirit also acts in the Church as a body. The Spirit keeps the Church united so we can fulfill the purpose the Church was created for.



-  United with Christ.
-  United through baptism.
-  United through the Word of God.
-  United in faith and doctrine.
-  United in mission and service.

UNITED WITH CHRIST

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:20-22)

The Spirit works in each of us to lead us to Jesus so we can receive justification and sanctification, and above all, so we can live united with Christ.

He makes us “living stones” (1P. 2:5) in that process. The more united with Christ we are, the closer we’ll be to our brothers and sisters.

Therefore, we are united in the community of believers, becoming part of a compact building, “a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”



How should those who are united with Christ live so we can become one?

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

Colossians 3:12-15

UNITED THROUGH BAPTISM



**"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."
(1 Corinthians 12:13)**

Baptism is a public act (before the whole universe) that shows a new believer becoming part of the body of the Church (Matthew 28:19).

What's the meaning of baptism according to Romans 6:4-6?

- 1. As Christ was buried, we die to our old life.**
- 2. As Christ was risen, we are reborn to a new life, "that we should no longer be slaves of sin."**

We give the world and a sin life up, and we commit to live in communion with Christ and His Church forever.



UNITED THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD

How does the Bible strengthen the unity of the believers?

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” (John 17:17)



It moves us to know Jesus (John 5:39).



It helps us to distinguish truth from falsehood (Acts 17:11).



It's the core of every revival and reformation (Isaiah 8:16).



The Holy Spirit inspired the Bible. Therefore, He will bring unity with both the living Word (Christ) and the written Word.

UNITED IN FAITH AND DOCTRINE



**“one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”
(Ephesians 4:5)**

**“But as for you, speak the things which
are proper for sound doctrine.” (Titus 2:1)**



**The doctrine is the beliefs that all the
Church accepts. The unity of the Church
needs doctrinal unity.**

**Jesus advised us to check “whether the
doctrine is from God.” (John 7:17)**



**The primitive Church persevered “in the
apostles’ doctrine.” (Acts 2:42)**

**Paul advised us to speak “sound doctrine.”
(Titus 2:1)**



**The doctrine the Holy Spirit uses to make
the Church united is based on the Bible: “To
the law and to the testimony! If they do not
speak according to this word, it is because
there is no light in them.” (Isaiah 8:20)**

UNITED IN MISSION AND SERVICE

**"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."
(Acts 2:1)**

The first result of the pouring of the Holy Spirit on a united Church was a missionary preaching (that resulted in 3,000 people being baptized).

A united Church cannot confine itself to a building. It must go out to preach and to serve the community.

How did the first Christians remain united after Pentecost (Acts 2:42-47)?



They continued steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

They were together and had all things in common.

They divided their possessions as anyone needed.

They gathered with one accord in the Temple.

They ate together with gladness.

They praised God.

They had favor with all the people.



“The vine has many branches, but though all the branches are different, they do not quarrel. In diversity there is unity. All the branches obtain their nourishment from one source. This is an illustration of the unity that is to exist among Christ’s followers. In their different lines of work they all have but one Head. The same Spirit, in different ways, works through them. There is harmonious action, though the gifts differ.”

E.G.W. (God’s Amazing Grace, July 22)

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The Holy Spirit

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