

Unity Prayer Curriculum / October 2021

Week 1



Reflection

The book of Romans is famous for “Justification by faith”— “how to get saved.” Yet Romans teaches another theme: Accepting each other. We call that “unity.”

The Romans were a well-meaning, greatly divided group of Jewish and Gentile believers. They lived quite differently and wanted to impose that on each other. The church in Rome was fighting. They were constantly at odds and they made no room for each other to grow.

God calls us to unity and acceptance.

Bible Study

- 1) Romans 14 is about the apostle forging peace between divided Christians. Which verses show that Paul was asking the church to “get along, despite their differences...”?

Two verses speak definitively to this—first negatively and then positively:

- a. *“But you, why do you judge your brother? Or again, why do you treat your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the Judgment seat of Christ” Romans 14:10 NASB.*
- b. *“So then we pursue the things that make for peace and the building up of one another” Romans 14:19 NASB.*

Prayer

This week, pray for unity in our Alliance congregations. Reflect on these two texts and ask God:

- a) to open our eyes to when we are judging others.
- b) to make a plan to chase after and pursue things that brings peace and encouragement to our congregations, in our families, and to those around us.

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Week 2

Reflection

Ephesians is unique in four ways. It is the only New Testament book that:

- Uses the word “unity”
- Teaches us how to defeat demonic powers in a comprehensive way,
- Speaks of “the heavenlies” (God/Christ/Spirit, the resurrected church, and the demonic hordes all dwell there)
- Proclaims that the Church can be filled up with all the fullness of God.

Those four realities intertwine. We defeat demonic attack by being “in Christ—together”. We cannot be “in Christ—alone.” To be “in Christ” is to be melded together with every believer throughout history. The Spirit joins us to the Risen Jesus—and God pours His fullness **into that joining**—making us a new race, “a temple in which God dwells by Spirit.”

The Spirit forges unity—the Devil foments division.

The unified church contains the fullness of God—and embarrasses the devil’s rule.

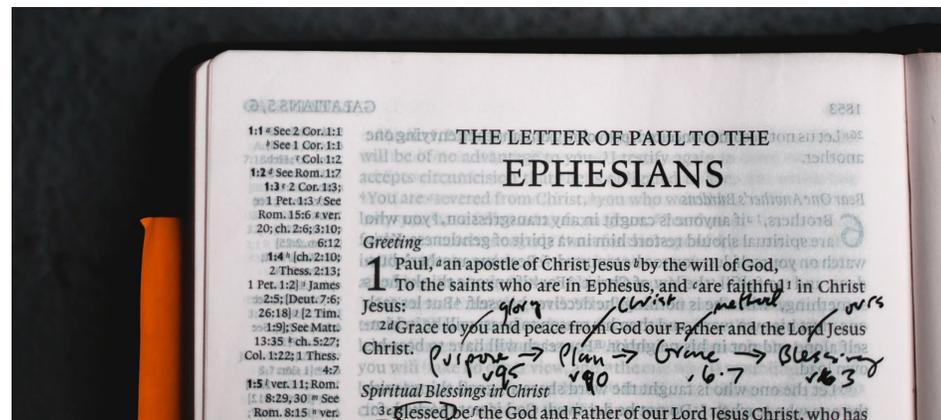
A divided church serves the devil’s agenda—and impedes the Gospel’s power. The book tells us to stop fighting, so that we don’t give the devil of foothold (4:27).

Bible Study

- 1) Reflect:
 - a. We are *blessed together* in Christ in the heavenlies (1:3),
 - b. We are *on display together* to the demons in the heavenlies (2:7; 3:10), and
 - c. We *wage war together* against the demonic forces in the heavenlies (6:12)
 - d. We do this together as a race, a temple, an army. We are to maintain “the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” to defeat the devil.
- 2) What is your plan to maintain the unity of the Spirit?

Prayer

This week, pray for Alliance leaders—those charged with overseeing the work of the Gospel among us. Grant pastors and leaders unity, strength, and wisdom to act in such a way that the shared focus of our movement grows deeper and more profound.





Reflection:

Jesus called a tax collector (committed to serving the Romans), to work with a Zealot (committed to overthrowing the Romans). Their politics were opposites—yet Jesus’ presence called them to unite around His purpose.

In John 17, Jesus prayed for a deepening of unity for those two, the 11 disciples, and for us.

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word. That they may all be one, even as You, Father are in Me, and I in You, that they may also be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me” John 17:20-21 NASB.

Jesus taught that our unity with one another must match the unity of the Father and the Son! His prayer was for Christ-followers to unite across political lines, attitudes, races, ages, and genders. If a tax collector and a Zealot could be united, we can be too.

Bible Study:

- 1) Read through John 17 three times; then jot down your thoughts. What struck you?
- 2) Can you agree with Jesus, that our unity with other believers reflect the unity of the Father and the Son? Pray to that end.

Prayer:

This week, pray for the National Ministry Center (NMC), our districts, and our national and international associations. Pray that these clusters of leaders who are focused on proclaiming Christ in their regions, would be granted unity, strength, and wisdom in all their work.



Reflection:

In Acts 3, Peter and John declared the name of Jesus over a man who couldn't walk. He was instantly healed, and this got the two arrested, told off, admonished never to use that name again.

The church gathered—and they did something astonishing—they thanked God together for the privilege of being persecuted, quoted Psalm 2 about authorities resisting the Lord's Christ. And then they prayed together like this:

"A healing in Jesus' name got us into trouble. So, send more healing in Jesus' name."

The building was shaken, the Holy Spirit fell—they were united in purpose:

"And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul..." Acts 4:32a NASB

They were "on purpose" on purpose.

Unity arises when we are on purpose. Can we intentionally be "on purpose?"

Bible Study:

- 1) Read Acts 3-4. Notice how they were "on mission together" and how the effect was to create unity. What is the mission of the Church? Are we on mission together?
- 2) The church prayed this: "*And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.*" Can we determine to pray this way when faced with trial by speaking the name of Jesus?

Prayer:

This week, pray for our nation and its leaders. Pray for the Prime Minister, the party in power, and for the governments over each region— pray that they be guided.