

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Ricardo Alvillar

Assisting: Cam Christian
Luka Herrera

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Tyler Christian

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Byran Hatcher

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Devotional: Julius Cook

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Tyler Christian

Pantry Item

Soup

Sermon Notes *Eternal Judgment*

I. *He is* _____

II. *He is* _____

III. *He is* _____

September 21, 2025

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

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Fayetteville, NC
28304

Phone:
(910) 425-1108

Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!
Sermons are
archived on our
YouTube page!

Service Times

Sunday:
B. C. 9:00am
Worship 10:00am

Wednesday Night:
B. C. 7:00pm

Ladies' Class:
Tuesdays 10:00am

Elders
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

Volume 50 Issue 11

The Cape Fear Crier

“Cry aloud and shout...for great in the midst of thee is the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 12:6

God's Plan For Religious Unity

By Jimmy Bates

Ephesians 4:4-6. The sin of religious division is one, if not the greatest, hindrance to the Lord's cause today! The Bible is God's revealed will to man and points to the necessity of UNITY among men. When men follow God's revealed will they will be united. Division occurs when men reject God's will. [emphasis mine - BTH]

For Unity to exist, there must be a **Standard** (a body of Truth) to which **all** men must comply. God is the source of All Truth (John 8:32; 17:17). God revealed this Truth through Jesus Christ (John 7:16; 12:48-50; Heb. 1:1,2; John 14:6). Jesus revealed this Truth to His Apostles (John 17:8,17,20,21). After Jesus ascended back to heaven, the Holy Spirit came to guide the Apostles and other men in recording this body of Truth and we have it today in the written word of God (John 14:26; 16:13; Acts 2:1-5; II Tim. 3:16,17; Jude 3; Gal. 1:6-12).

The Standard to which all men must comply is the Law of Christ (Gal. 6:2; I Cor. 9:21), which is: the Truth (John 17:17; 8:32); the Gospel (Rom. 1:16); the Faith (Jude 3; Acts 6:7; 13:7,8; Rom. 5:1; Gal. 3:26,27); Sound Doctrine (Titus 2:1); the Doctrine of Christ (II John 9-11). Unity is achieved by all those who accept and follow God's standard — The Truth.

What Is Bible Unity? The word “Unity” is from the Greek word *enotas* — “One, unity, unanimity, agreement” (Thayer p.217). The New World Dictionary defines UNITY as “The state of being one, or united; oneness; singleness....” Unity is different from “Union” which is a “combination...a combining, joining, or grouping together...” (New World Dictionary). Religious Unity has been falsely associated with: **Diversity** — “quality, state, fact, or instance of being diverse; difference;” **Diverse** — “different; dissimilar;” **Diversion** — “a diverting, or turning aside” (New World Dictionary). This is what most of the so-called “unity Movements” today are — diversions!

What Bible Unity Is NOT: 1) Unity is NOT “Union.” 2) Unity is NOT “Diversity.” 3) Unity is NOT “Agreeing to disagree.” 4) Unity is

NOT “Going along to get along.” 5) Unity is NOT “Turning one’s back and ignoring the difference.” 6) Unity is NOT “Ecumenical cooperation.”

Bible Unity involves Oneness, Singleness, Truth, Harmony: I Peter 3:8, *“Be ye all of one mind.”* Phil. 2:5, Having the mind of Christ. John 17:20,21, As God and Christ are one. In I Cor. 1:10, Paul told the Corinthians that by the authority of Christ, they were all to “speak the same thing,” “that there be no divisions among you,” “that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

The Need For Unity: Man, in general, has always rejected Unity and promoted Division. Denominationalism promotes religious division. Liberal minded brethren promote division in the church. Contentious, “opinion binding” brethren promote division in the church.

Division is Sinful. By it’s very nature, division weakens and destroys. “United we stand, divided we fall.” *“...Every Kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation: and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand”* (Matt. 12:25). Internal division weakens and sometimes destroys congregations of the Lord’s people (Gal. 5:15). Religious division is possibly the greatest hinderance to the cause of Christ (John 17:20,21). The Bible condemns division (Gen. 13:8; Prov. 6:16-19; Matt. 12:25; Rom. 16:18; I Cor. 1:10-13; I Cor. 3:3; I Cor. 12:25; James 3:13-16). All Bible passages that demand Unity, by implication, condemn division.

Some Causes of Division. First, a *“self-willed” attitude* causes division. One who is dominated by self-interest (a desire to please self) (Rom. 16:18; Titus 1:7; Gal. 1:10). Second, a *contentious attitude* of “rule or destroy” causes division, a greed for authority, pre-eminence (III John 9). Contentious individuals cause strife and division (I Cor. 1:11; Titus 3:9,10; Rom. 2:5-9). Third, a *lack of respect for and knowledge of the Word of God as authority in religion* causes division (Col. 3:17; I Peter 4:11; I Thess. 5:21). This is following the traditions and creeds of men (Mark. 7:7-9; I Cor. 3:3). This is following human names (I Cor. 1:12,13) and human doctrines (I Tim. 1:3; II John 9-11). Fourth, *rebellion against the Truth of God* lies at the root of all division (I Tim. 4:1-3; II Tim. 4:1-5).

Defending the Truth and exposing error DOES NOT cause division, but rather promotes Unity. As Elijah stated in I Kings 18:18, forsaking the commandments of God causes division. Compare: Phil. 1:17; Jude 3; Eph. 5:11; II Tim. 4:2-5.

Unity is good, right, and pleasant (Psalm 133:1). There is strength and success in Unity. The strong and successful church in Jerusalem was united (Acts 4:32).

(Cont’d next week)

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 9/14	B.C.: 31	Daily Bible Readers: 11
Chapters Read: 284	Worship: 65	Wednesday: 23

Family News and Notes

We welcome the **McKinley** family to Cape Fear! Jonathan, Bethany, Owen, and Gwen. Keep **Chad Futrell** in prayer in the passing of his dad. Keep his family in prayer. **Julius Cook’s** cousin was killed an accident last week. His funeral is today in Durham. **John McDougle, Geraldine Harrington’s** uncle, is not doing well. **Carole Pearson**, Dave Carver’s cousin is still recuperating from a stroke. **Margaret Langston** is in Carolina Inn. **Gwen Jennen** is having health problems. **Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, is in hospice care and not doing well. **Barbara Norris** is also struggling with her health. **Ally** is in West Virginia with her grandparents to help out. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **Linda** is having a medical procedure later this week. **Kim Perkins’** parents need prayers. Her mom is doing much better though.

Also remember: **Linda Boston, Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Wade & Sandra Hedgepeth, Barry & Melany Hatcher, Frances Salaz, Linda Hernandez,** and the **Davis** family.

Bible Reading Plan

Sep 21	Sep 22	Sep 23	Sep 24	Sep 25	Sep 26	Sep 27
Is 29-30	Is 31-32	Is 33-34	Is 35-36	Is 37-38	Is 39-40	Is 41-42
Ps 85	Ps 86	Ps 87	Ps 88	Ps 89	Ps 90	Ps 91

Events

Gospel Meetings in the area: at Rockingham this week; 7pm weeknights. At Sheffield Drive October 5-8, weeknights at 7pm.

Fall Get-together: Sunday, October 26 5pm at the Hatchers. Bring chili, soups & desserts

