

WISDOM FROM GOD'S WORD

Joy in Jesus Christ

Unity in the Christian Church: The Foundation of Unity
Philippians 2:1-4

Truth: Unity in the Christian church is built upon respect and obedience to God and love toward each other.

1. The need for unity in the church.

- External opposition to the Gospel.
- Internal posturing - conversation and conduct that is subversive, hypocritical, and intended to mislead and polarize people.
 - Philippians 1:27; 2:5-11,20-22; 4:23 (2:2).

2. The difference between unity and uniformity in the church.

- Unity - the state of being one; united; absence of division; oneness of mind, heart, spirit.
- Uniformity - identical; sameness; without variation.

3. The foundation of unity in the church.

- Consolation in Christ Jesus.
 - Strengthen through encouragement.
 - “Standing Somewhere in the Shadows” lyrics.

- Comfort of the Father’s love.
 - Gentle and kind persuasion.
 - Romans 5:8 ◦ Romans 8:35-39

- Fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
 - Partnership; participation.
 - Romans 8:26-27 ◦ 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

- Affection and mercy toward each other.
 - Tenderness; a heart of compassion.
 - Ephesians 4:17-32
