

Lesson 3 – Wednesday: “Steadfast in Unity”

Key Texts: *Philippians 1:27; John 17:1–26*

I. Introduction

- *Title: Steadfast in Unity*
 - *Opening Thought: Unity is not simply agreement; it's the reflection of Christ's character among believers.*
 - *Anchor Text: “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ...” (Philippians 1:27)*
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II. The Prayer of Jesus for Unity (John 17)

A. Structure of the High Priestly Prayer

1. John 17:1–5 – Jesus and the Father

- *Jesus prays for Himself to be glorified.*
- *Glorify = reveal God's character through His life and sacrifice.*
- *The cross becomes the ultimate revelation of God's love and justice—true glorification.*

2. John 17:6–19 – Jesus prays for His disciples

- *He asks that they may be kept from evil, sanctified by the truth, and unified in purpose.*
- *Unity flows from sanctification—being set apart by the truth of God's Word.*

3. John 17:20–26 – Jesus prays for future believers

- Christ's desire: *"That they all may be one."*
- *The same unity between the Father and Son is the model for believers.*
- *This unity testifies to the world of God's love and power.*

B. Understanding True Glorification

- *Glorification = God's character revealed.*
 - *The cross is the clearest picture of divine glory—self-sacrificing love.*
 - *When we exhibit that character, we glorify Him.*
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III. The Nature of Godly Unity

A. Not All Unity Is Holy

- *Example: Acts 7 – The mob that stoned Stephen was "of one accord," but united in hatred.*
- *Unity apart from the Spirit of Christ is dangerous—it becomes opposition disguised as agreement.*
- *True Christian unity is built on **truth, character, and love**, not numbers or popularity.*

B. Testing the Spirit of Unity

- *Ask: Does this unity reflect the character of Christ?*
 - *Is it motivated by love, humility, and truth?*
 - *Any unity that compromises truth or love is counterfeit.*
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IV. The Foundation of Spiritual Unity

A. The Role of Prayer

- *Unity begins in prayer—Jesus modeled it in John 17.*
- *When believers pray together for the Spirit’s presence, hearts are knit together.*

B. The Role of the Holy Spirit

- *The Spirit is the binding agent of the body of Christ.*
 - *The Spirit aligns our hearts, tempers pride, and points us to Jesus.*
 - *Unity is not organizational—it’s spiritual.*
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V. Unity and Citizenship in Heaven (Philippians 1:27)

A. Paul’s Perspective

- *Paul was a dual citizen (Roman and Jewish), yet his truest citizenship was in Heaven.*
- *His message: “Live as citizens worthy of the gospel of Christ.”*

B. Living as Citizens of Heaven

- *Heaven’s citizens reflect heaven’s values—humility, compassion, and truth.*
 - *Unity becomes natural when our focus is on our shared homeland.*
 - *Our loyalty to Christ transcends all earthly divisions.*
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VI. Application & Reflection

1. *How do we ensure our unity is Christ-centered and not agenda-driven?*
2. *In what ways can we reflect heavenly citizenship in our local church life?*
3. *What practical steps can we take to “pray together and stay together”?*

- *Corporate prayer*
 - *Shared mission*
 - *Forgiveness and reconciliation*
 - *Focus on character, not control*
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VII. Closing Thought

"Unity that is not grounded in truth is only a temporary truce. True unity is born when the character of Christ is reproduced in His people."

Closing Text: *Philippians 1:27 – "Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."*

Appeal Thought:

Let us be steadfast in unity—not uniformity, but Spirit-filled harmony that reveals the love and character of Jesus to the world.