

# United We Stand

## PASSAGE:

**John 17:11-23 NKJV** 11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, **keep through Your name those** whom You have given Me, <sup>E93</sup> **that they may be one as We are.** 12 While I was with them in the world, <sup>E94</sup> I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; <sup>E95</sup> and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will <sup>E96</sup> believe in Me through their word; 21 **that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.** 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one:** 23 I in them, and You in Me; **that they may be made perfect in one,** and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

## Misunderstandings about unity

**Being unified does not mean that we always agree with each other.**

We can disagree agreeably.

**Being unified does not mean that we never confront sin or offense.**

We are commanded to speak the truth in love; not enable by glossing over faults, sins and offenses.

**Being unified does not mean that we that we are a clique.**

As long as there is one lost soul left to be redeemed, we are too small.

**Being unified does not mean that we do not practice church discipline.**

† There are those who do not serve God and those who will not serve God.

† There are those who will not be governed by anyone but themselves.

**ILLUSTRATION:** There can be union without unity: tie two cats together by their tails and throw them over a clothesline.

**Being unified does not mean that we tolerate false teaching or people.**

**QUOTE: Charles Spurgeon** - "Truth alone must determine our alignments. Truth comes before unity. Unity without truth is hazardous. Our Lord's prayer in John 17 must be read in its full

context. Look at verse 17: "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." Only those sanctified through the Word can be one in Christ. To teach otherwise is to betray the Gospel."

## Means of Unity

**Protection:** (Vs. 11) - by the name of Jesus – so that we may be one.

- **Keep, Guard, Protect, Preserve**

**From what:**

1. **People** who would deceive, divide, and destroy.

**Acts 20:29-31 NKJV 29** For I know this, that after my departure **savage wolves** will **come in among you**, not sparing the flock. **30** Also **from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things**, to draw away the disciples after themselves. **31** Therefore **watch**, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

2. **Satan** who would deceive, divide, destroy.

**2 Corinthians 2:10-11 NKJV 10** Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven\* that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, **11** lest **Satan** should **take advantage** of us; for **we are not ignorant of his devices**.

**By what:**

By the name of God,

Yahweh – The Self existent one: The source of all things.

Yeshuah – Yahweh is salvation, Yahweh is revealed,

Yahweh delivers.

**For what:**

That we may be in unity with God and each other.

## Marks of Unity

**Presence:** (Vs. 21) As God is in Jesus and Jesus is in God. This presence will be in us.

- ◆ We are one in Him and with each other.
- ◆ The word "in" in the Greek denotes a fixed location, time, or condition.
- ◆ The nature of God's relationship with Jesus mirrors the nature of God's relationship with us who are in Jesus.

**Purpose:** (Vs. 21) Testifying that God had sent Jesus.

1. Who Jesus is.
  - a. The revelation of God to us.
2. What Jesus does.
  - a. Reconciles us to God and each other.

**Power:** (Vs. 22) The Glory of God unifies us.  
The power that was in Jesus is in us.

**Ephesians 1:15-23 NKJV 15** Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, **16** do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: **17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in

the knowledge of Him, **18** the eyes of your understanding <sup>☩</sup> being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, **19** and what is the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power **20** which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. **22** And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be **head** over all things **to the church, 23** which is **His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**Perfection:** (Vs. 23) Completely One

- ☩ Complete or Accomplished.
- ☩ When we are united, we are as we should be.
- ☩ When we are united, we exist as God intended us to exist.

**Passion:** (Vs. 23) God loves us as He does Jesus.

- ☩ It is in this state that the love of God is best shown to the world.
- ☩ It is against the nature and reason of the world to look to love others as yourself.
- ☩ As God perfects us, we display His passion.

Unity with God is the heartbeat of the Church. Without it we die.

**QUOTE: A.W. Tozer** – *“Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers [meeting] together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship. “*

We become One, not by striving to agree with each other, but by striving to agree with God.