

The Unifying Power of The Gospel v2

The gospel is God's only power to save and unify individuals from all nations

Introduction

- Politicians, educators, diplomats and religious leaders often call for "unity" among all people no matter how diverse
- Their efforts for unity are futile because they force people to accept sinful beliefs and practices

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Introduction

- Through His Gospel, the Lord has provided the only means by which individuals from diverse backgrounds can be unified together in service to Him
- Denominationalism fails to unite because they refuse to follow the gospel, endorsing human traditions above Truth
- But, how does the gospel unify?

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Need for forgiveness and unity because of our sins

Rom 3:21 But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

Rom 3:22 even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

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Obeying the gospel produces forgiveness of sins and unity with God

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

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Obeying the gospel produces forgiveness of sins and unity with God

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

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Obeying the gospel produces forgiveness of sins and unity with God

Act 8:36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

Act 8:37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

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Obeying the gospel produces forgiveness of sins and unity with God

Act 8:38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

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Obeying the gospel produces forgiveness of sins and unity with God

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

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Obeying the gospel produces forgiveness of sins and unity with God

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

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Unity maintained by continued submission to the gospel

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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Unity maintained by continued submission to the gospel

Col 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Col 3:6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,

Col 3:7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

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Unity maintained by continued submission to the gospel

Col 3:8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.

Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,

Col 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him--

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Unity maintained by continued submission to the gospel

Col 3:11 *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

Col 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

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Unity maintained by continued submission to the gospel

Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Col 3:14 Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

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Unity maintained by continued submission to the gospel

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

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Unity maintained by continued submission to the gospel

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Unity maintained by privately exercising our Christian liberty in matters of indifference

Rom 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but* not for *the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions.

Rom 14:2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

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Unity maintained by privately exercising our Christian liberty in matters of indifference

Rom 14:3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.

Rom 14:10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

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Unity maintained by privately exercising our Christian liberty in matters of indifference

Rom 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this-- not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

Rom 14:14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

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Unity maintained by privately exercising our Christian liberty in matters of indifference

Rom 14:15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

Rom 14:16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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Unity maintained by privately exercising our Christian liberty in matters of indifference

1Co 8:9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

1Co 8:10 For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?

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Unity maintained by privately exercising our Christian liberty in matters of indifference

1Co 8:11 For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died.

1Co 8:12 And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

1Co 8:13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.

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Unity maintained by privately exercising our Christian liberty in matters of indifference

Rom 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

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2. Obeying the gospel produces forgiveness of sins and unity with God
3. Unity maintained by continued submission to the gospel
4. Unity maintained by privately exercising our Christian liberty in matters of indifference