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UNITY, NOT NECESSARILY UNANIMITY

NOTE: This article was published in the August 1997 issue of Available Light Online. Due to the overwhelming response and the requests to see this article again, I have decided to reprint the article. The words "UNITY, NOT NECESSARILY UNANIMITY" is not an endorsement for the Unity Church, Interfaith Organization, nor the Unitarian-Universalist Church.

Hope a little hope, for all the breaking hearts in need. Dream a little dream, for all the captives to be free. You can make a difference, you can lead the way. You will live the answer, if you give it away.

Give a little grace, to someone trapped by yesterday. Take a little love, to the place where they went astray. You can make a difference, you can lead the way. **JESUS** is the answer!! So let us give His love away!

Give it away, when you find a ray of hope that shines like priceless treasure. Give it away, when you find the love of Jesus upon you without measure. Give it away, when you find the love of JESUS!!.

"Give It Away", From the CD "Crank It Up" by Mylon and Broken Heart, 1990, Star Song Compact Discs.

Within the past couple of years, there has been an movement towards unity of the Body of Christ. Popular verses used for this movement are: Acts 1:14 and 2:1, and many others, throughout the book of Acts. Throughout Acts, the term "one accord" is used to describe unity within the body. As I began to pray about and to research this subject matter, I decided to search out the Biblical meaning of the word accord. The Greek word for accord is "**HOMOUTHUMOS**". This word is actually the combination of the two Greek words "homou" and "thumos".

The Greek word **homou** means: "at the same time,(together)".

The Greek word **thumos** means: "passion".

Literally, this word actually means: "at the same time with passion" or "together with passion".

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Unfortunately, we as the body, has mistaken the word unity for the word unanimity. If you look at the Greek translation for the word accord, there is absolutely no reference to the concept of unanimity. No where in the interpretation does the meaning show that all persons involved in being together are unanimous in agreement. The only unanimous thing that will ever exists in all of our lives is Jesus, not our petty theologies, doctrines, and denominations. Before we proceed any further, let us look at the definitions of two words:

Unity: The state or quality of general agreement and common understanding.

Unanimity: The state of being unanimous, a complete agreement in opinion without dissention.

Unity clearly states that there is a common goal to any objective. Unanimity clearly states that everyone in a body of individuals must be in complete, total, 100%, agreement with everything that is done within that particular group or the disagreeing party risks expulsion, scorn, shame, and ridicule. Those factors are used to keep people in bondage from seeking out new relationships with other children of God and from learning more about God's grace, love and mercy from a different, but Biblically sound perspective. Yes, we (as Christians), have used our man-made theologies, petty doctrines, and denominational ilk many a time to determine agreement and acceptance of others into the Body, and quite often, our lives.

For example, I may disagree with you on the "Once saved, always saved" theology (no unanimity present) but at the same time, be in agreement with you in reference to sponsoring an evangelical outreach for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission in our world {ethnos} (unity in action). If unanimity was what God really had in mind, then for example, evangelists would think that the only ones that are truly anointed by God are the ones that are evangelically minded and discard the verses about spiritual gifts, and the verses where God calls some to be evangelists, apostles, prophets, pastors, and teachers without showing any respect to the other spiritual gifts that someone may be called to receive. Too many people are using their denominational rules and regulations to determine so-called unity (when in reality, they have determined unanimity or non-unanimity). For example, the Pentecostal Christian thinks that the way to unity within the Body is through his ways, theologies, and his denomination. The Baptist (and other denominations) feels along the same lines. It is clearly evident that it is now time to stop mistaking unanimity for unity. The same blood shed for the Pentecostal at Calvary was shed for the Baptist at Calvary. The same stripes on the back of Jesus taken for the Pentecostal is the same stripes received for the Baptists. In reality, we do not see any of the leaders of the major cults bash their fellow leaders publicly if there is disagreement among them. But we, as

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Christians, are quick to say that our denomination is the only way to true Christianity while at the same time, go on TV and ask for more money to further spread their concept of unity (actually unanimity). With that logic, one would have to say that a person is in the same position as a cult where both believe that the cults form of religion or the denominations form of Christianity (without consideration of others Christian beliefs) is the ONLY way to heaven. Jesus is the only way to heaven! Then if that is not enough, when the harvest is ripe and the laborers are needed, we use our petty teachings to find a reason to not come together in true unity and help be a light to a dark, dying world.

At the same time, the secular world (smarter than we actually give them credit for being), is seeing this all manifest or have experienced this at one time or another as some pain from their past. Then the Pentecostal, in his Pentecostal circles, and the Baptist, in his Baptist circles (this applies to other denominations also) act dumbfounded as to why no one is wanting "OUR!!!" religion. Plain and simple, the sinners do not want "YOUR!!!" religion, they want JESUS to be a realistic, and moving lifestyle in their lives. they really want to experience what it truly means to have a "personal" Savior (keyword personal). It has been time to stop feeding our denominational machines and to start feeding the people we meet with Jesus; His Love, His Mercy, and His Grace. Look out and see the view of a harvest out and about you. We must fix our eyes on God and see what he really wants us to see and remove our view of the world through the "reversed binocular" mentality of tunnel vision.

Also, if we look at Mark 9, we see these verses:

38 Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us." 39 But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. 40 For he who is not against us is on our side. 41 For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

The disciples thought that the only real Christian were Christians who followed the disciples. We see that Jesus clearly tell the disciples that whoever is not against us is for us. Of all the true Christian denominations, if we see someone who is doing a good thing for the cause of Christ, we need to rejoice in an awesome God and not try to correct everyone into our thinking. We can not reach everyone and there are Christians in differencing segments of society that are relational to people we could never reach. Let us rejoice in our brothers and sisters in Christ and receive out brothers and sisters in Christ exactly as brothers and sisters in Christ.

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Lord, right now, we repent of practicing unanimity instead of unity. Please forgive us of our sins and I ask that we, (as all Christians), can come together to see the big panoramic picture of the work that remains to be done. Remove the reversed binocular mentality from us and teach us to be brothers and sisters in arms, doing your work for Your kingdom. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

We work the field of souls
Together you and I
Some fields are blooming now
While other fields run dry
We are not the same
But differences aside
We will work the field of souls
Together you and I

From "Field of Souls" copyright by Wayne Watson, 1995