



The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

#42

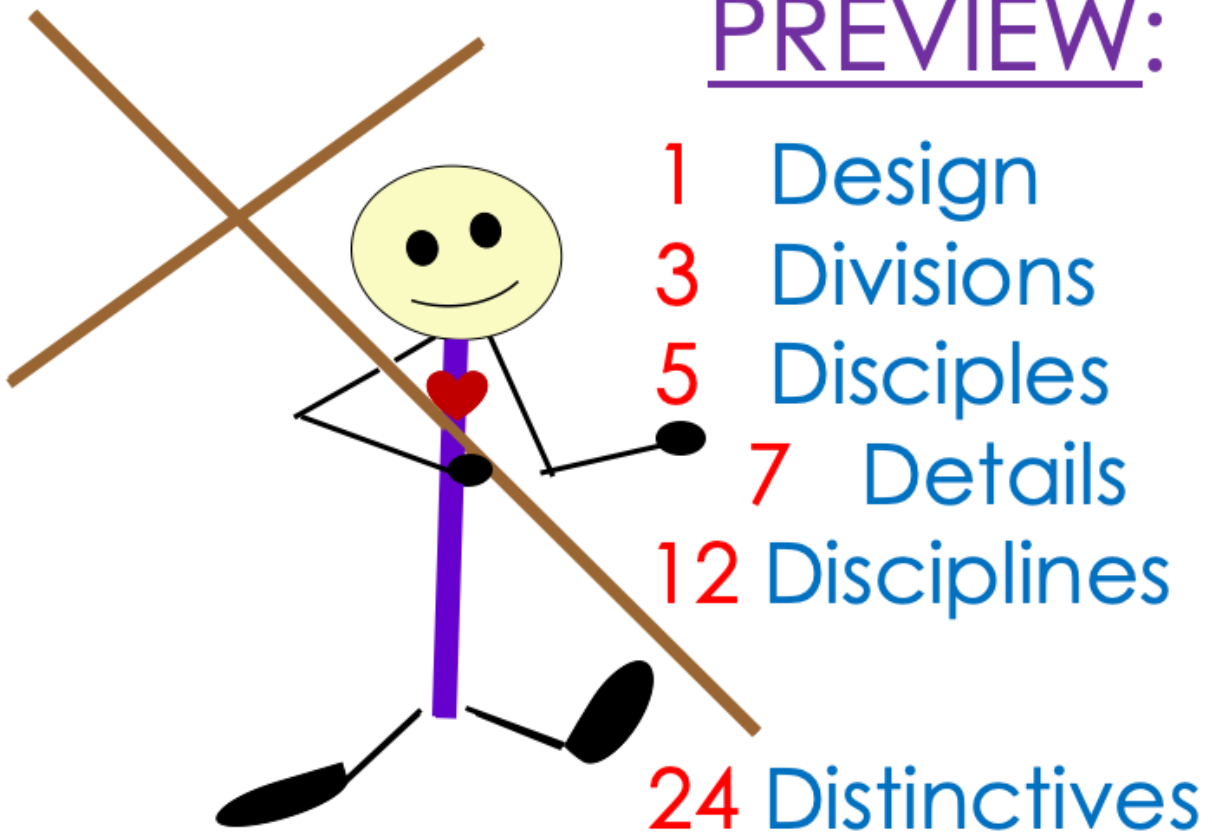
Exemplifying Supernatural Unity

John 17

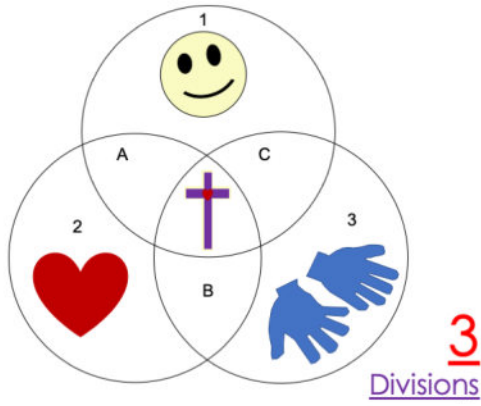
(Come And See Christianity book pages 105)

The FLOW

PREVIEW:

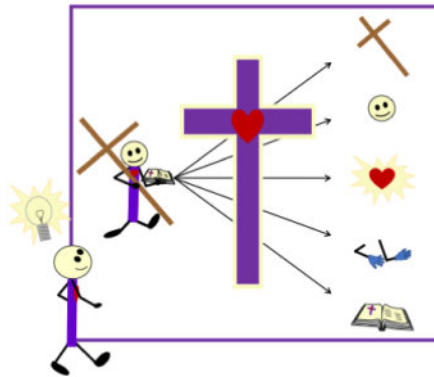


SECTION SIX: 12 Disciplines



The Disciple's "Hands" put into **action** the **truth** & **love** of God's Word, God's will, & God's ways. In short, when **each Christian's Head, Heart, & Hands** are united in purpose & power, the family of God is **living** as the **Body of Christ!**

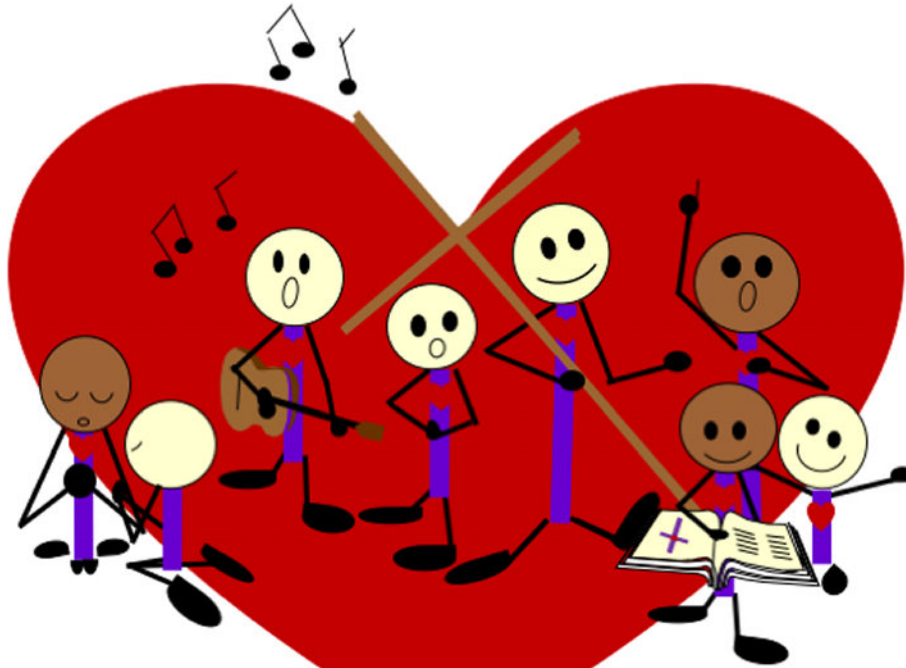
24 Family Distinctives:



24 DISTINCTIVES:

The “**distinctives**” are a family portrait... When you add God's Word, God's Spirit, God's Truth, God's love, and God's people **all together**, the **distinctives** are what **we** **look, love, & live like :-)**

We are...



Exemplifying supernatural
unity

INTRO:

As we begin to **see the beautiful, biblical portrait of Christ's faith-filled family** defined and described by God's Word, will, and ways, it is critical to remember that the Holy Bible is to ALWAYS BE our ultimate source, authority, and interpreter in ALL things pertaining to one's understanding of reality and application of truth in love.

Remember,
The biblical Church is Christ's missional family...
Moreover, God's Word reveals our Father's will and His family's ways.

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Here are ***24 defining & describing HANDS-on DISTINCTIVES of Christianity:***

True Christians are biblically, miraculously, intentionally, missionally, and imperfectly...

1. *Responding to grace*
2. *Repenting of sin*
3. *Trusting the Bible*
4. *Obeying God's Word*
5. *Growing in Christ*
6. *Living Spirit-led*
7. *Praying for guidance*
8. *Following by faith*
9. *Dying to self*
10. *Carrying our cross*
11. *BE-ing The Church*
12. *Loving one another (truly loving one another)*
13. *Equipping the saints*
14. *Exemplifying supernatural unity*
15. *Ministering as ambassadors*
16. *Discerning matters shrewdly*
17. *Worshipping God vertically*
18. *Experiencing Him horizontally*
19. *Proclaiming the Gospel (no matter what)*
20. *Fishing for men*
21. *Making disciplined warriors*
22. *Winning spiritual warfare*
23. *Loving our King*
24. *Serving His kingdom*

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

This lesson marks another major transition point in our curriculum's eye-opening explanation of Christianity. By way of review, we began in Section One with the reality of Almighty God having 1 Divine DESIGN (also known as a biblical worldview and the eternal application of Jesus Christ's Gospel). In Section Two, we addressed the 3 DIVISIONS (Head, Heart, and Hands) that make up the "being" in every human being. Next, in Section Three, we demonstrated how Christianity accounts for, defines, and describes all of humanity, every person, past, present, and future. We noted that all people can be identified as one of the 5 DISCIPLES – Lost, Lover, Learner, Leader, or Lifer. Moving forward, Section Four revealed, engaged, and explained the 7 fundamental DETAILS of God's Divine DESIGN... because **we all need to know what we need to know**. To be more specific, those seven truths are: The Foundations, The Framework, The Facts, The Fight, The Faith, The Family, and the truth about Forever.

Then, in Section Five, which we just completed, our focus shifted from HEAD based truths to 12 HEART shaping exercises or disciplines - each having the potential to strengthen one's personal relationship with Christ, His Church, and their collective mission: bringing God glory by finding & growing more glorifiers.

We used the acronym **J.E.S.U.S.'S. P. S.W.O.R.D.** to outline and harmonize a biblical, missional, and intentional methodology for growing in God's love - & His loving witness. The 12 HEART DISCIPLINES are: **J**ournaling... **E**ating-nothing (fasting)... **S**cripture-intake... **U**nderstudy of Scripture... **S**tewardship... **S**olitude... **P**rayer... **S**erving... **W**orshipping... **O**utreach... **R**elationships... and **D**evelopment.

Now, our curriculum and study will transition to The HANDS. This is where **Christians demonstrate to the world that Christ is in their worship & witness**. Whereas our time spent in the HEAD sections (1-4) focused on the truths that Christians need and seek to LEARN, and our concentration on the 12 HEART DISCIPLINES of section 5 helped us to grow in God's LOVE, our sixth and final section will **walk through the 24 DISTINCTIVES, which explain & exemplify how Christians are to faithfully LIVE... and fully BE The Church... together** – all by God's grace & ALL for His glory!

God's Word puts it this way:

"Let us not love with word and tongue but in action and truth." – 1st John 3:18

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47](#)praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. – Acts 2:46-47

I. **DISTINCTIVES are FRUIT:**

It is important to realize that God's miraculous and authentic **Christian DISTINCTIVES are the FRUIT of saving grace and faith** (Ephesians 2:1-10). As Jesus described in John 15, people can do nothing outside of their abiding in Him and obeying His Word, will and ways. In short, there will be no fruit unless one remains attached to and provided for by the true Vine and divine Root. With that said, a cautionary note is worth sharing here, beware the counterfeits that abound around the world. ***Plastic fruit is deceptive vs. DISTINCTIVE!***

Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

II. **DISTINCTIVES are FAMILY:**



DISTINCTIVES, by definition, are those “distinguishing characteristics that are notable for having a special quality, style, and/or attractiveness” (Dictionary.com).

When it comes to God's family, the true Church, each Christian and their individualistic DISTINCTIVES are as unique as their potential. At the same time, in the same way that a billion unique snowflakes can be combined to make a single snowstorm, or countless swatches of scrap fabric can be sewn together to make a single quilt, so it is with God's family. The LORD creates His Christian family with a both/and combination of DISTINCTIVE uniqueness, as well as DISTINCTIVE love and defining unity.

Christianity's DISTINCT family (ecclesia) has a DISTINCTIVE unity (koinonia).

“By this all people will know that you are My disciple, if you have love for one another.”
– John 13:35

“The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

III. **DISTINCTIVES are WITNESS:**

The most biblical and healthy understandings of Christianity will include an embrace of two overarching and DISTINCTIVE purposes. Namely, per God’s Word, will, and ways, every Christian has received miraculous, saving grace, as well as the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to:

1. Bring glory to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.*

2. BE Christ’s witness.

Acts 1:8

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, **and you will be My witnesses** in Jerusalem (locally), and in all Judea and Samaria (regionally), and to the end of the earth (globally).”*

God’s DISTINCTIVE people have been filled with His Holy Spirit for the express purpose of living DISTINCTIVE lives. When the world sees the LORD’s loving family living out their divinely empowered and God-honoring worship, work, and warfare, the resulting fruit will serve as a faithful witness, built with supernatural, grace-based, and missional DISTINCTIVES.

“God created me—and you—to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion—namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life.”

- John Piper

The Christian Distinctive

What distinguishes Christianity from all other religions is that it is a *revealed* religion. Christianity is not about our search for God or our means of finding him. Christianity is not a religion that works its way upward. It is all about God coming to us — God in grace making himself known to us and making a way for us to enjoy fellowship with him.

And so, at the very heart of Christianity is, simply, a message — a message from God to us about what he has done to bring us to himself.

If Christianity is distinctively revealed religion, then it is also uniquely *authoritative*. It does not offer itself as the best and highest of human thinking about God or even the best or most successful of human efforts to know God. It professes to be nothing less than the unique word from God, his very own self-disclosure and the record of the actions he has taken in Jesus Christ to bring us into fellowship with himself.

One of Rudyard Kipling's characters declares, "The heathen in his blindness bows down to wood and stone; He don't obey no orders unless they is his own." That is to say, human religions lack authority — they form their own ideas and "discover" their own beliefs.

By contrast the Christian is "under orders," because unlike human religions, Christianity is a revealed religion — divinely revealed. We Christians are not our own touchstone of truth, and we do not confuse our ideas about God with His own self-revelation. We learn truth about God not from "inner lights" within ourselves but from God's own objective Word.

And apart from this external authority, there is no Christianity. This, at bottom, is Christianity's leading distinctive.

And so, we **Christians prize Scripture as God's Word. We joyfully submit to it. And we enthusiastically proclaim its message of grace in Jesus Christ to the world.**

- Dr. Fred Zaspel

Micro

*Unity without the gospel is a worthless unity;
it is the very unity of hell.*

- J. C. Ryle

As important as unity is, it is not our most important value. Jesus Christ taught that truth transcends unity as a priority. It is critical to recall that in Christ's high priestly prayer, before He prayed that we would be one, He prayed that we would be set apart in the truth (Jn. 17:17). From God's point of view, truth is not only more important than unity but it is in fact the basis for unity. The Bible does not know a unity that is just for unity's sake. Authentic Christian unity is a unity forged in a common cause, a common conviction, a common interest. Biblical unity is forged in our mutual bondedness to the truth in Christ, "the way and the truth and the life" (Jn. 14:6). When we embrace the truth, we are free to embrace one another in the truth.

- Joseph Stowell

I do verily believe that when God shall accomplish [unity], it will be the effect of love, and not the cause of love. It will proceed from love, before it brings forth love.

- John Owen

"No one is perfect – there are always going to be little things that people disagree about. Nevertheless, we should always get on our knees together and seek to maintain the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3)."

- John MacArthur

John 13:34-35

³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Message

It is not our job to "produce" unity. Unity is "of the Spirit" (Ephesians 4:3). Unity is automatic when the Spirit is in control of everyone's lives. Our job is to "preserve" the unity of the Spirit – to do nothing to disrupt the unity He is producing... We must take care of our relationships and be quick to clean up our offenses. We must make right our wrongs so that the unity of the Spirit is not disrupted.

- Eddie Rasnake

Paul's vision of the body of Christ is of a unity which consists in diversity, that is, a unity which is not denied by diversity, but which would be denied by uniformity, a unity which depends on its diversity functioning as such – in a word, the unity of a body, the body of Christ.

- James Dunn

A biblical theology of unity reveals a richer and deeper understanding of unity than mere uniformity, but it also holds out the goal of visible unity towards which Christians should aspire. The model of church unity presented in Scripture is a unity-in-diversity which protects it on one side from an over-reliance on human hierarchies but also from too great of an emphasis upon human autonomy... [Unity is being] bound to God and to one another by the gospel.

- Richard Lints

The cross screams to us that we are all adopted into the same spiritual family in the same way with the same privileges. The cross screams to us that the sins of disunity such as discord, hatred, bitterness, strife, divisiveness, malice, jealousy, envy, disgust, indifference, unforgiveness have all been shattered by the cross and are therefore unacceptable amongst God's redeemed... And with our eyes on the cross, we strike a deathblow to our pride which fuels our divisions.

- Randy Smith

The union of believers is grounded in the mystical union of Christ and His Church. The Bible speaks of a two-way transaction that occurs when a person is regenerated. Every converted person becomes "in Christ" at the same time Christ enters into the believer. If I am in Christ and you are in Christ, and if He is in us, then we experience a profound unity in Christ.

- R.C. Sproul

BIG IDEA:

EXEMPLIFYING SUPERNATURAL UNITY in Christ is Christianity's God-glorifying, grace-gifted, Spirit-empowered... loving, faithful, obedient, and fruit-filled miraculous method and mission.

PREVIEW:

1. EXEMPLIFYING
2. SUPERNATURAL
3. UNITY

TEXT:

John 17:20-23

*“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21**that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22**The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, **23**I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*

In John 13 the point was that, if an individual Christian does not show love toward other true Christians, the world has a right to judge that he is not a Christian. Here (in John 17:21) Jesus is stating something else which is much more cutting, much more profound: We cannot expect the world to believe the Father sent the Son, that Jesus' claims are true, and that Christianity is true, unless the world sees some reality of the oneness of true Christians.

- Francis Shaeffer

1. EXEMPLIFYING

Illustration:

Here are a few illustrative samples:

Jesus Christ EXEMPLIFIES loving grace & all that is good in this world!

The world, the flesh, and the devil EXEMPLIFY spiritual warfare.

Heaven EXEMPLIFIES hope!

Explanation:

By definition, the root explanation of EXEMPLIFYING is grounded in an active verb (see the “ING”). To be more specific, **EXEMPLIFYING makes, achieves, &/or shares an extreme example of excellence in adherence.**

By way of example, the U.S. Army's Military Police Corp. has a motto... a mantra that serves to inform, inspect, and inspire the soldiers in its ranks.

“We set the standards for excellence!”

In other words, as those who are responsible for protecting, defending, and enforcing the army’s moral code of conduct, each and every M.P. (military police officer) is expected to EXEMPLIFY those very standards.

When it comes to our broader reality & biblical Christianity, consider:

Our Creator EXEMPLIFIES His creation...
Truth EXEMPLIFIES reality...
Vision EXEMPLIFIES truth...
Mission EXEMPLIFIES vision...
Christianity EXEMPLIFIES vision and mission...
Christ EXEMPLIFIES Christianity...
Christ-likeness EXEMPLIFIES Christianity...
BE-ing EXEMPLIFIES doing...
Obedience EXEMPLIFIES love...
Glorifying EXEMPLIFIES obeying...
Discipling EXEMPLIFIES glorifying...
Equipping EXEMPLIFIES discipling...
Fruit EXEMPLIFIES faith...
Sanctification actively EXEMPLIFIES justification...
Glorification will EXEMPLIFY sanctification...
We EXEMPLIFY with exercise!

Application:

*You never have to advertise a fire. Everyone comes running when there's a fire.
Likewise, if your church is on fire, you will not have to advertise it.
The community will already know it.
- Leonard Ravenhill*

Ephesians 4:1-6

*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. **2** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

2. SUPERNATURAL

Illustration:

***Believers are never told to become one;
we already are one and are expected to act like it.***
- Joni Eareckson Tada

Explanation:

Definition: that which is outside the natural order; beings, behavior, &/or occurrences brought about from the supernatural plane of existence.

It is important to note that there are two sides to the supernatural... God's light and the devil's darkness; heavenly angels and hellish demons. In short, there is an ongoing spiritual war that will not subside until Christ returns.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be My witnesses (locally, regionally, and globally).

- Christianity has a PURE supernatural POWER.
- Christianity is a PEOPLE who are supernaturally EMPOWERED.
- Christianity is a PROMISE of supernatural EMPOWERMENT.
- Christianity is a POWER gifted by God's Spirit POWER.
- Christianity has a PURPOSE that is supernaturally EMPOWERED!

If there are two persons praying, there are three. If three meet to pray, there are four praying. There is always One more than you can see.

- S.D. Gordon

Philippians 2:2-3

*...then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. **3**To nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,*

The only way it is possible to have one mind is to have the mind of God derived from the unity of the Spirit of God, a unity which comes only when believers find the will of God and give themselves unselfishly and unstintingly to its fulfillment.

- John F. Walvoord

Believers all belong to the same Lord and are thus one with each other. Therefore, anything that denies our oneness with each other denies our oneness with Him.

- John MacArthur

Application:

Per Jesus in John 15, Christians are to abide & obey... or die eternally – period! Apart from His supernatural power & provision, we can do nothing.

God cares nothing about our manmade divisions and groups and is not interested in our self-righteous, hair-splitting, and religious, man-made formulas and organizations. He wants you to recognize the UNITY of the body of Christ.

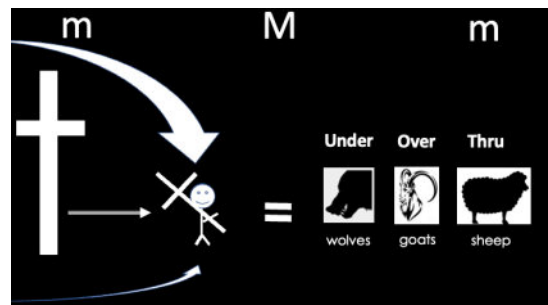
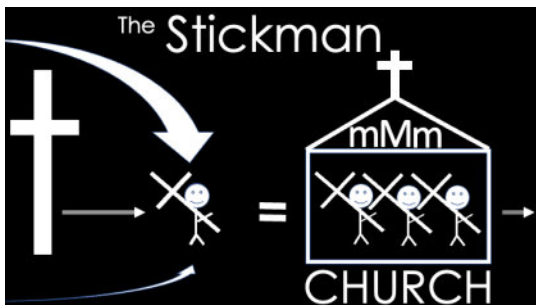
- M.R. DeHaan

3. UNITY

Illustration:

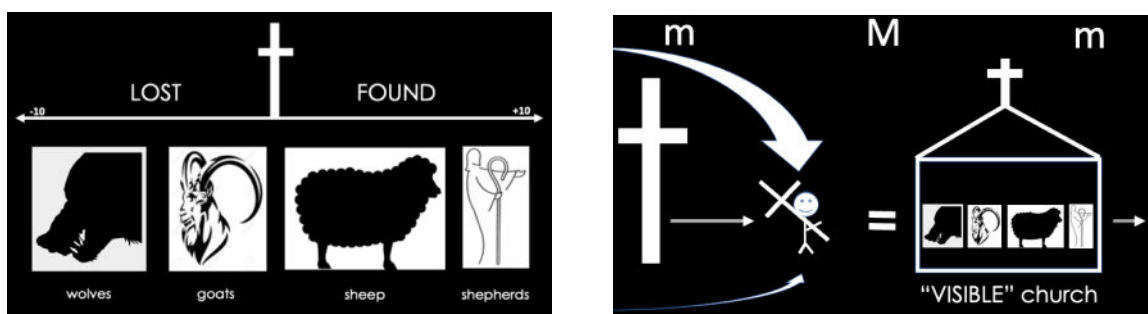
The Church is everywhere represented as one. It is one body, one family, one fold, one kingdom. It is one because it is pervaded by one Spirit. We are all baptized into one Spirit so as to become, says the apostle, one body.

- Charles Hodge



1 Corinthians 1:10

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.



A man of a right spirit is not a man of narrow and private views, but is greatly interested and concerned for the good of the community, to which he belongs, and particularly of the city or village in which he resides, and for the true welfare of the society of which he is a member.

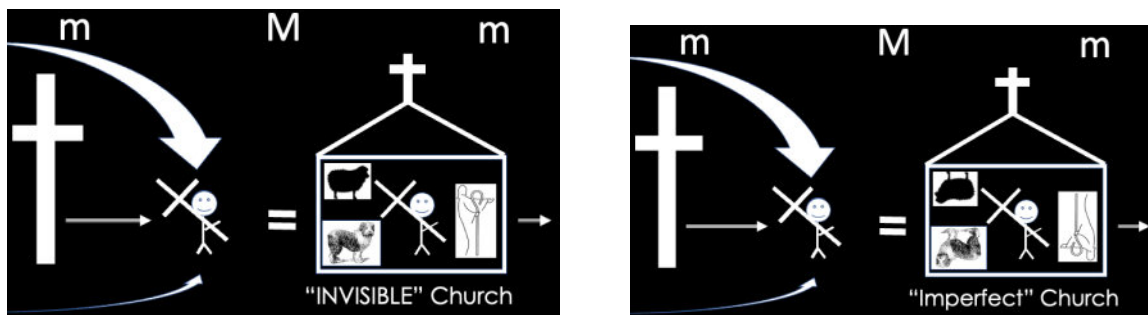
- Jonathan Edward

Factions always breed factions.

- Richard Sibbes

Romans 12:16

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.



Explanation:

God's most EXEMPLIFYING examples of SUPERNATURAL UNITY are first and foremost The Trinity, then the Christian Church!

Per God's Word

- **CHURCH** is the people who have been holy harmonized as the called out, serving, set apart, Spirit filled, SUPERNATURALLY UNIFIED family of God.
- **FELLOWSHIP ("koinonia")** is SUPERNATURALLY UNIFIED oneness.
- **TOGETHER ("homothoomadon")** is designated to represent those who share a single, UNIFIED vision, mission, and passion.

If the Church is a living body united to the same head, governed by the same laws, and pervaded by the same Spirit, it is impossible that one part should be independent of all the rest.

- Charles Hodge

Jesus organized the church, which is His vineyard. He commands all to go into the vineyard and work. All who are united to Christ by faith, and are thus members of His mystical body, should be members of His visible church.

- James H. Aughey

The unity of Christendom is not a luxury, but a necessity. The World will go limping until Christ's prayer that all may be one is answered. We must have unity, not at all costs, but at all risks. A unified Church is the only offering we dare present to the coming Christ, for in it alone will He find room to dwell.

- Charles H. Brent

Show me the man or the woman who is more interested in getting members for his church than winning them for Christ, and I will show you a person who does not yet know the Unifying and purifying power of the Blood

- M.R. DeHaan

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

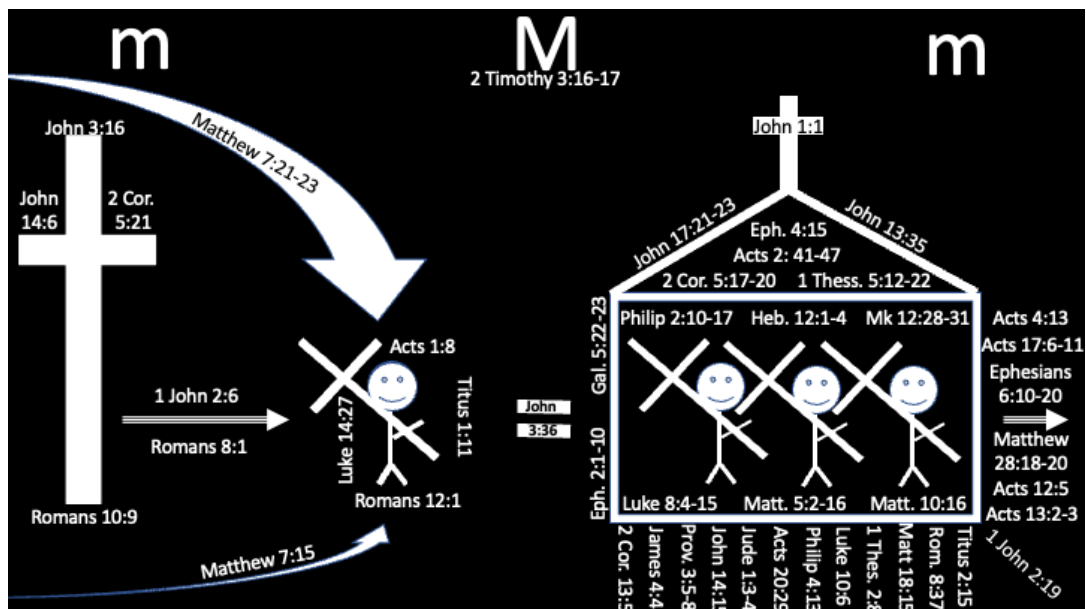
Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Application:

Another way to see and BE the essence of this lesson... another way to put the three words: EXEMPLIFYING SUPERNATURAL UNITY together... another way to apply these biblical mandates is to live out Christ's Great Commandments (Matthew 22:37-40) and Great Commission (John 20:21). While there are countless ways to describe the details of such a life's journey, here are a few offerings that are designed to help you bring things into focus.

BE-ing the Acts 1:8 Family

1. Everything begins with God's grace, truth, & love! (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. Biblical vision & mission are God's blueprint & bullseye. (Proverbs 29:18)
3. A recognized need for Christ & His saving Gospel is required. (Psalm 116)
4. True, miraculous, Messianic-transformation is definitive. (Acts 4:12-13)
5. Real Christianity is ALL sheep... NO goats & NO wolves! (Matthew 5:3-14)
6. Imperfect passion is a birthmark of genuine Christians. (Acts 14:19-23)
7. Trusting God's providence brings peace in life's storms. (Genesis 50:20)
8. Joy is a faith-family fruit & one of God's most special gifts. (Galatians 5:22)
9. Church is the embodiment of God's missional faith-family. (Acts 2:41-47)
10. Mission is Messiah's miraculous purpose! (Acts 1:8 & Matthew 28:18-20)





One FAITH. One FAMILY. One FOCUS.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will BE My witnesses (locally, regionally, and globally).” ~ Acts 1:8

One Question: **WHAT DO YOU WANT?**
One Offer: **COME AND SEE.**
One Promise: **TRUTH IN LOVE!**

Our Truth-in-Love Distinctives: We are...

1. Responding to grace & repenting of sin...
2. Trusting the Bible & obeying God's Word...
3. Growing in-Christ & living Spirit-led...
4. Praying for guidance & following by faith...
5. Dying to self & carrying our cross...
6. BE-ing the Church & loving one another...(truly loving one another)
7. Equipping the saints & exemplifying supernatural unity...
8. Ministering as ambassadors & discerning matters shrewdly...
9. Worshipping God vertically & experiencing Him horizontally...
10. Proclaiming the Gospel (*no matter what*) & fishing for men...
11. Making disciples-warriors & winning spiritual-warfare...
12. Loving our King & serving His kingdom!

Make no mistake...

***BE-ing THE Acts 1:8 Family of God means BE-ing those “no matter what,” biblical believers who love & live EXEMPLIFYING SUPERNATURAL UNITY locally, regionally, & globally! We are The Church family that Christ died to give life to! And finally, to be clear, we are a Church without walls, without prejudice, without excuses... ALL by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, per God's Word alone, and ALL for His glory alone!
Amen and AMEN***

CLOSE:

There is but one God, and they that serve him should be one. There is nothing that would render the true religion more lovely, or make more proselytes to it, than to see the professors of it tied together with the heart strings of love. If God be one, let all that profess him be of one mind, and one heart, and thus fulfill Christ's prayer, "that they all may be one."

- Thomas Watson

By faithfulness we are collected and wound up into unity within ourselves, whereas we had been scattered abroad in multiplicity.

- Augustine

If Christ is not ashamed to indwell them I will not be slow to embrace them.

- Sinclair Ferguson

Be united with other Christians. A wall with loose bricks is not good. The bricks must be cemented together.

- Corrie Ten Boom

"Being of the same mind" is not intended to squash independent thinking by Christians or to prevent them from having different opinions on secondary matters, but to exhort them to be at one in their mental attitude and thus in the basic aim, direction, and orientation of their behavior.

- P.T. O'Brien

"Unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials, charity in all things."

- The Puritans

The choice to withhold forgiveness slowly but effectively destroys family unity.

- Patricia Ennis

To a true child of God, the invisible bond that unites all believers to Christ is far more tender, and lasting, and precious; and, as we come to recognize and realize that we are all dwelling in one sphere of life in Him, we learn to look on every believer as our brother, in a sense that is infinitely higher than all human relationships. This is the one and only way to bring disciples permanently together. All other plans for promoting the unity of the Church have failed.

- A.T. Pierson

The church is not a democracy in which we have chosen God, but a theocracy in which He has chosen us. The church is the only society in the world that never loses any of its members, even by death. The church upon its knees would bring heaven upon the earth.

- E.M. Bounds

When you destroy unity in the church you rip the heart out of the body of Christ.

- Anonymous

Colossians 3:13-14

*Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

For What?

To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer.

- Martin Luther

Often we want people to pray for us and help us, but we always defeat our object when we look too much to them and lean upon them. The true secret of union is for both to look upon God, and in the act of looking past themselves to Him they are unconsciously united.

- A. B. Simpson

The revelation of God is positively essential. The Spirit of God must reveal how we are in Christ and how we are united with Him in one.

- Watchman Nee

Those who disrupt the body of Christ and split its unity into schisms are quite excluded from the hope of salvation, so long as they remain in dissidence of this kind.

- John Calvin

Hold firmly that our faith is identical with that of the ancients. Deny this, and you dissolve the unity of the Church.
- **Thomas Aquinas**

What! At peace with the Father, and at war with His children? It cannot be.
- **John Flavel**

Unity is one entity with one body with one purpose.
- **Tony Hart**

So What?

I have never yet known the Spirit of God to work where the Lord's people were divided.
- **Dwight L. Moody**

There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.
- **A.T. Pierson**

Whatever disunites man from God, also disunites man from man.
- **Edmund Burke**

Nothing unites people as sharing the same affliction.
- **Jack Hyles**

God's family, which comes into being by regeneration, is more central and more lasting than the human family that comes into being by procreation.
- **John Piper**

Sin is almost the only thing we have in common with everyone else, and so at the feet of Jesus where sin is cleansed is the only place where we can be one. Real oneness conjures up for us the picture of two or more sinners together at Calvary.
- **Roy Hession**

Divisions in the church always breed atheism in the world.
- **Thomas Manton**

When the Gospel enables us to live in love, even though we may have nothing else in common save Christ, it is a testimony to its power to transform a group of sinful, self-centered people into a loving community united by a common relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Mark Dever and Paul Alexander**

There is a different kind of unity enjoyed by the joining of diverse counterparts than is enjoyed by joining two things just alike. When we all sing the same melody line it is called unison, which means "one sound." But when we unite diverse lines of soprano and alto and tenor and bass, we call it harmony; and everyone who has an ear to hear knows that something deeper in us is touched by great harmony than by mere unison.
- **Anonymous**

"Unity in the church will not happen if members have unforgiving hearts." "few things can destroy the unity of a church like gossip. A unified church is powerful. Gossip tears apart that unity and renders a church powerless."
- **Thom S. Rainer**

At its best, this family dynamic of the local church functions as God's fertile soil for growing us beyond mere tolerance toward true expressions of love and unity."
- **Scott Sauls**

All Christians enjoy a unity of mission in which we have one Lord, one faith, and one baptism (Eph. 4:4-5). There is surely disunity in the visible church, but that is not as important as the reality of the unity that we enjoy by virtue of our shared communion in Christ."
- **R.C. Sproul**

Now What?

Order your soul; reduce your wants; live in charity; associate in Christian community; obey the laws; trust in Providence.
- **Augustine**

If added power attends the united prayer of two or three, what mighty triumphs there will be when hundreds of thousands of consistent members of the Church are with one accord day by day making intercession for the extension of Christ's Kingdom.

- John R. Mott

The Christian community is a community of the cross, for it has been brought into being by the cross, and the focus of its worship is the Lamb once slain, now glorified. So the community of the cross is a community of celebration, a eucharistic community, ceaselessly offering to God through Christ the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving. The Christian life is an unending festival. And the festival we keep, now that our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us, is a joyful celebration of his sacrifice, together with a spiritual feasting upon it.

- John Stott

Seek Unity and you will find neither Unity nor Truth. Seek the light of truth, and you will find Unity and Truth.

C. S. Lewis

No matter how many times the teeth bite the tongue, they still stay together in one mouth. That's the spirit of FORGIVENESS. Even though the eyes don't see each other, they see things together, blink simultaneously and cry together. That's UNITY.

- Ron Millevo

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen and Amen

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John 17

September 15, 2014

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