

143 **and close the door to a flood of evil. Thus God would be glorified, and many**
144 **souls would be saved.** {5T 609.3}

145 The **success of our work depends upon our love to God and our love to our**
146 **fellowmen.** When there is harmonious action among the individual members of
147 the church, **when there is love and confidence manifested by brother to**
148 **brother, there will be proportionate force and power in our work for the**
149 **salvation of men.** *Testimonies to Ministers*, 188.1

150

151 8. What should we do to overcome disunity?

152 Php 1:9 “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in
153 knowledge and all discernment....”

154 Luke 5:23,24 “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember
155 that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar,
156 and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer
157 your gift.”

158 Matt. 18:15 “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault
159 between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if
160 he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three
161 witnesses every word may be established.

162 The **promise is made on condition that the united prayers of God’s people are**
163 **offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power**
164 **greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer. The power given**
165 **will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and**
166 **for one another.**

167 No one lives to himself. In God’s work each one is assigned a post of duty. The
168 **union of all strengthens the work of each. As the faith and unity and love of**
169 **the church grow stronger, their circle of influence enlarges.... Receive the**
170 **Holy Spirit, and your efforts will be successful. Christ’s presence is what**
171 **gives power. Let all strife and dissension cease. ... If they will give themselves**
172 **wholly to Him, He will restore to them the strength they have lost by division.**
173 *Central Advance*, February 25, 1903, par. 2,3,7

174 The **time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this**
175 **reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer and will**
176 **banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife.** Those who have not
177 been living in Christian fellowship will draw close to one another. *Testimonies*,
178 vol. 8, 251.1

179 One great reason why our brethren and sisters have no more confidence toward
180 God in prayer, is, that **nearly all neglect to follow the words of Jesus in**
181 **preserving harmony between brethren.** They allow various wrongs to exist
182 with members of the church, **which create bitter envy and strife; and while**
183 **these differences exist, God neither hears nor answers their prayers....**
184 *Review and Herald*, April 15, 1880 par. 9

185 If there have been difficulties, . . . if envy, malice, bitterness, evil surmisings, have
186 existed, confess these sins, not in a general way, but go to your brethren and
187 sisters personally. **Be definite. If you have committed one wrong and they**
188 **twenty, confess that one as though you were the chief offender. Take them by**
189 **the hand, let your heart soften under the influence of the Spirit of God, and**
190 **say, "Will you forgive me? I have not felt right toward you. I want to make right**
191 **every wrong....** *Our High Calling*, 370.3

192 Compiled by Dan Augsburg of Path2Prayer Ministries path2prayer@gmail.com

Jesus and the Prayer that Restores Unity

John 17:21 “...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.”

Introduction

1 1. What is unity?

2 *Ps. 133:1-3 “Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in
3 unity! It is like precious oil upon the head running down the beard, the beard of
4 Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments.... For there the Lord
5 commanded the blessing....”

6 *Eph. 4:15,16“...but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into
7 Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit
8 together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which
9 every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in
10 love.”

11 1 Cor. 12:18 “But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body
12 just as He pleased.”

13 *Eph. 4:30 “For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.”

14 “(Christ) engages to come into the midst of his church, and to honor their prayers
15 and decision by the manifestation of his grace and power. They are members of
16 his mystical body. Christ expects that man will be partaker of his divine nature
17 while in the world, and thus convey a large amount of glory from earth to
18 heaven.” *Review and Herald*, December 11, 1888

19 •Every Member is necessary (which body part would you do without?)

20 •Every member obeys the head (Each part of body obeys the brain)

21 •Every member is valued (We protect body parts that are in pain)

22 *“(Unity in diversity among God’s children—the manifestation of love and
23 forbearance in spite of differences of disposition—this is the testimony that God
24 sent His son into the world to save sinners. This unity is the most convincing
25 proof to the world of the majesty and virtue of Christ. *Sons and Daughters of God*,
26 p. 286

27 “True religion unites hearts, not only with Christ, but with one another, in a most
28 tender union. When we know what it means to be thus united with Christ, and
29 with our brethren, a fragrant influence will attend our work wherever we go.”
30 *Gospel Workers*, p. 483

31 *“(When the laborers have an abiding Christ in their own souls, when all
32 selfishness is dead, when there is no rivalry, no strife for the supremacy, when
33 oneness exists, when they sanctify themselves, so that love for one another is seen
34 and felt, then the showers of the grace of the Holy Spirit will just as surely come
35 upon them as that God’s promise will never fail in one jot or tittle. But when the
36 work of others is discounted, that the workers may show their own superiority,
37 they prove that their own work does not bear the signature it should. God cannot
38 bless them.” *Selected Messages* vol. 1, p. 175

39

40 2. Was the early church united?

41 Acts 2:1 “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, **they were all with one**
42 **accord in one place.”**

43 What was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? The
44 **glad tidings of a risen Saviour were carried to the uttermost parts of the**
45 **inhabited world.** As the disciples proclaimed the message of redeeming grace,
46 hearts yielded to the power of this message. The **church beheld converts**
47 **flocking to her from all directions.** Backsliders were reconverted. Sinners united
48 with believers in seeking the pearl of great price. Some who had been the bitterest
49 opponents of the gospel became its champions. ... **Every Christian saw in his**
50 **brother a revelation of divine love and benevolence.** One interest prevailed; one
51 subject of emulation swallowed up all others. The **ambition of the believers was**
52 **to reveal the likeness of Christ's character and to labor for the enlargement**
53 **of His kingdom.** *Acts of the Apostles*, 48.1

54
55 3. What is the result of unity?

56 **When God's people place themselves in proper relation to Him** and to one
57 another, **there will be a full impartation of the Holy Spirit** for the harmonious
58 combination of the whole body. *Signs of the Times* February 7, 1900 Par. 5

59 When God's chosen people are of one mind, **barriers of selfishness will**
60 **disappear as by magic, and many, many more souls will be converted** because
61 of the unity which exists among believers. *Signs of the Times* February 7, 1900
62 Par. 10

63 **When we bring our hearts into unity with Christ, and our lives into harmony**
64 **with His work, the Spirit that fell on the disciples on the Day of Pentecost will**
65 **fall on us.** *Counsels to the Church*, 66.3

66
67 4. What eventually came to the early church, which continues in our day?

68 James 3:16 "For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing
69 are there."

70 James 4:1 "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come
71 from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not
72 have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not
73 have because you do not ask."

74 **Gradually a change came. The believers began to look for defects in others.**
75 **Dwelling upon mistakes, giving place to unkind criticism, they lost sight of**
76 **the Saviour and His love.** They became **more strict in regard to outward**
77 **ceremonies**, more particular about the theory than the practice of the faith. **In**
78 **their zeal to condemn others, they overlooked their own errors.** They lost the
79 brotherly love that Christ had enjoined, and, **saddest of all, they were**
80 **unconscious of their loss.** They did not realize that happiness and joy were going
81 out of their lives and that, having shut the love of God out of their hearts, they
82 would soon walk in darkness. *Acts of the Apostles*, 548.1

83
84 5. What are the consequences of disunity?

85 A **sleepy, Christless church, quarreling and surmising evil**, will have no reward,
86 and **need look for no revival, unless its members repent**, and do the first works.
87 *Review and Herald*, June 26, 1888 Par. 9}

88 **Many who profess to gather with Christ are scattering from Him. This is why**
89 **the church is so weak. Many indulge freely in criticism and accusing.** By
90 giving expression to suspicion, jealousy, and discontent, they yield themselves as
91 instruments to Satan. Before they realize what they are doing, the adversary has
92 through them accomplished his purpose. The impression of evil has been made,

93 the shadow has been cast, the arrows of Satan have found their mark. **Distrust,**
94 **unbelief, and downright infidelity have fastened upon those who otherwise**
95 **might have accepted Christ.** Meanwhile the workers for Satan look
96 **complacently upon those whom they have driven to skepticism, and who are**
97 **now hardened against reproof and entreaty.** They flatter themselves that in
98 comparison with these souls they are virtuous and righteous. They do not
99 realize that these sad wrecks of character are the work of their own
100 **unbridled tongues** and rebellious hearts. It is through their influence that these
101 tempted ones have fallen. *Christ Object Lessons*, 340.3}

102 There is **no more effectual hindrance to growth in grace than this disposition**
103 **to criticize and condemn others.** We have in our experience **seen this accusing**
104 **spirit gradually enter the hearts of church-members until it had leavened**
105 **nearly the entire church**, and the result was that little of real godliness or of the
106 spirit of Christ remained.--HS 212, 213. *Pastoral Ministry*, 268.3

107 Satan is ... constantly at work to prevent this harmony and union, that in
108 witnessing the bickerings, strifes, and dissension, unbelievers shall become
109 disgusted with Christianity and fastened in unbelief and infidelity. God is
110 dishonored by those who profess the truth while they are at variance with one
111 another. *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, 293.4

112 **The world is looking with gratification at the disunion amongst Christians.**
113 **Infidelity is well pleased.** God calls for a change among His people. **Union with**
114 **Christ and with one another is our only safety in these last days. Let us not**
115 **make it possible for Satan to point to our church members, saying: "Behold**
116 **how these people, standing under the banner of Christ, hate one another.** We
117 have nothing to fear from them while they spend more strength fighting one
118 another than in warfare with my forces." *Counsels to the Church*, 43.2

119
120 6. What is the ultimate cause of disunity?

121 *"The cause of division and discord in families and in the church is separation
122 from Christ. To come near to Christ is to come near to one another. The secret of
123 true unity in the church and in the family is not diplomacy, not management, not a
124 superhuman effort to overcome difficulties—though there will be much of this to
125 do—but union with Christ." *Adventist Home*, p. 179

126
127 7. What should we do to avoid disunity?

128 Rom. 12:18 "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all
129 men."

130 1 Cor. 1:10 "Now I plead with you ... that there be no divisions among you."

131 **I urge our people to cease their criticism and evil speaking, and go to God in**
132 **earnest prayer, asking him to help them to help the erring. Let them link up**
133 **with one another and with Christ.** Let them study the seventeenth of John, and
134 **learn how to pray and how to live the prayer of Christ. ... Perfect Christian**
135 **fellowship will exist among them. There will be seen in their lives the fruit**
136 **that always appears as the result of obedience to the truth. ... Perfect**
137 **oneness,—a union as close as the union existing between the Father and the**
138 **Son,—this is what will give success to the efforts of God's workers.** *Review*
139 *and Herald*, January 27, 1903

140 An earnest effort should be made in every church to put away evilspeaking
141 and a censorious spirit as among the sins productive of the greatest evils in
142 the church. ... This united action would bring a flood of light into the church