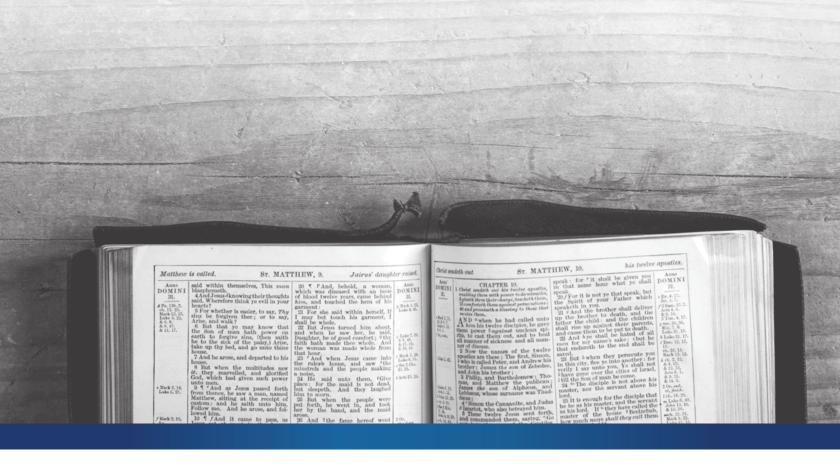
BIBLE PASSAGE COLLECTION

CHRISTIAN UNITY





BE UNITED IN CHRIST OUTREACH MINISTRY

A Collection of Bible Passages on Christian Unity

The Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry is a Bible-based ministry whose mission is to teach and promote Christian unity in accordance with God's Word. A deep love and reverence for what the Bible teaches about Christian unity is the heartbeat of the Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry.

Today, Christians are separated from each other in many ways and for many reasons. Churches are suffering from open conflict and division. Jesus prayed for His church to be holy and set apart from the world. In John 17:20–23, He prayed for His disciples to be one ... united.

A great number of Bible passages reveal the Lord's passion, prayer, and instruction for how believers are to think, feel, and live in our relationships with each other.

Genuine, visible love and unity among God's children honors the Lord and proclaims His gospel to the world. Jesus prayed for us to be one so that the world may believe the Father sent Him.

In this document, you will find a collection of Bible passages on Christian unity to help believers carefully study and better understand God's will for His people to "Be United in Christ." You can explore our comprehensive library of Bible-based resources at www.BeUnitedinChrist.com.

To deepen your study, read each of these Bible passages in its context. By reading and meditating on these passages, we pray you will learn and obey God's will for unity among His people.

Once you learn what the Bible really says about Christian unity, the next step is to obey God's will by applying what you learn to your everyday life. As you learn and obey these Biblical truths, we believe the Holy Spirit will convict, encourage, and shape every aspect of your life with God and with other believers.

A HOLY, LOVING GOD HAS CALLED US TO LOVE AND UNITY

The call for Christians to love one another and live at peace with one another arises from the nature and works of the God of the Bible. God is love. God is holy and righteous. He exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons yet one God. He exists in perfect unity and created the world to reflect His majesty and power. He has redeemed us to share and delight in His glorious love and unity.

John 17:20–23 (NKJV) "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 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. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 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."

1 John 1:3 (ESV) "That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NKJV) "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Romans 14:13 (NKJV) "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way."

Romans 14:19 (NKJV) "Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another."

1 Peter 4:8–10 (NASB) "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

SINFUL DIVISIONS GRIEVE GOD AND AWAIT HIS JUDGMENT

Adam and Eve were created to love, enjoy, and live at peace with God. When they rebelled, the human race fell into sin. Sin separates us from God. It is hostility towards God. It divides people and destroys relationships. Sin damages unity. A day is coming when God will judge all sin and all people will receive either the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ or the doom of eternal death.

Proverbs 6:16–19 (NASB)

"There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers."

Matthew 5:22–24 (NASB) "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell. Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."

Matthew 7:21 (NKJV) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven."

Matthew 12:25 (NKJV) "But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: 'Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.""

1 Corinthians 6:5–7a (NASB) "I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers? Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged?"

1 John 4:20 (ESV) "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."

Psalm 50:16a, 19–21 (ESV) "But to the wicked God says: 'You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.""

2 Corinthians 5:9–10 (NKJV) "Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV) "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

James 4:11–12 (NASB) "Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?"

James 5:9 (NKJV) "Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!"

THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH IS CREATED BY GOD FOR HIS GLORY AND OUR JOY

Sin separates us from God and from each other, but God has provided a way of reconciliation in Jesus Christ. The life of Christ satisfied the righteousness of God, and the death of Christ satisfied His wrath upon sin and sinners. Those who receive the Holy Spirit, turn from their sin and trust in Jesus Christ are saved. They are joined to Christ and to one another in the Holy Spirit. They receive forgiveness, new life, and membership in God's family forever.

1 John 4:10–11 (NKJV) "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

Romans 15:5–7 (ESV) "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 12:12–14 (NKJV) "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many."

1 Corinthians 12:18–20 (NKJV) "But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body."

1 Corinthians 12:24b–27 (ESV) "But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

Ephesians 2:13–16 (NASB) "But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity."

Colossians 1:19–20 (ESV) "For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in Heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross."

Revelation 5:9–10 (NKJV) "And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.""

UNITY AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE IS A GIFT FROM GOD AND A BLESSING FOR HUMAN LIFE

Separation from God and people is a miserable thing. Union with God and union with people are wonderful and generous gifts. Unity is neither a chore nor a burden. It is a blessing from the Lord. It is not something we created by ourselves but something good we have received and been called and enabled by God to protect and preserve.

Psalm 133 (NASB)

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brothers to dwell together in unity!
It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Coming down upon the beard,
Even Aaron's beard,
Coming down upon the edge of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon
Coming down upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the Lord commanded the blessing—
life forever."

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (NASB) "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart."

Matthew 5:9 (ESV) "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Matthew 18:20 (NKJV) "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them"

1 Corinthians 3:8–9 (NKJV) "Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building."

2 Corinthians 13:11 (ESV) "Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."

Ephesians 4:32(NKJV) "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

PRESERVING UNITY REQUIRES HUMILITY, EFFORT, AND THE GRACE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST

Unity among God's people will not be preserved by accident. It must be nurtured. Unity requires our continual attention and effort. It needs the presence and power of God at work in our hearts. Until Christ returns, we must be willing to repent from our transgressions, forgive the sins of others, and pursue peace with each other. Sometimes this means we overlook offenses; other times we must confront the offender, but at all times we must have humble hearts, Godward minds, and serving hands. Only then can we preserve the precious unity that Jesus Christ died to create in His church.

Acts 4:32 (NKJV) "Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common."

Romans 12:3–5 (NASB) "For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

John 13:34–35 (ESV) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 14:23 (NKJV) "Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

Galatians 6:1–2 (ESV) "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (NASB) "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

2 Corinthians 8:3–5 (ESV) "For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us."

John 17:17 (NKJV) "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

Romans 12:9–16 (NASB) "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation."

Philippians 2:1–4 (NKJV) "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

Colossians 3:14–17 (ESV) "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

James 2:14–16 (NKJV) "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?"

Hebrews 13:1 (AMPC) "Let love for your fellow believers continue and be a fixed practice with you [never let it fail]."

Hebrews 6:10 (NKJV) "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV) "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

1 Peter 1:22–23 (NKJV) "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever."

1 Peter 3:8–9 (ESV) "Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing."

TRUTH, HOLINESS, AND SEPARATION FROM EVIL PRESERVE UNITY

True and lasting unity is based upon the truth of God and His Word. We only share in fellowship by sharing in the truth. Even more so, we only nurture and preserve the unity God has created by separating ourselves from evil, false teaching and false teachers. Faith in Jesus Christ and love for Jesus Christ unites us together and distinguishes us from the world.

Amos 3:3 (NKJV) "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"

Matthew 10:34–39 (NKJV) "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

1 John 3:14–15 (NKJV) "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."

Matthew 10:14 (NKJV) "And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet."

Romans 16:17 (ESV) "I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them."

Ephesians 4:1–6 (NASB) "Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all."

Ephesians 5:11 (NKJV) "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them."

Ephesians 5:15–21 (NASB) "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."

Philippians 1:27 (ESV) "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel."

2 Peter 1:5–7 (NASB) "Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love."

- Colossians 2:2 (NKJV) "That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ."
- 1 Corinthians 5:11–13 (ESV) "But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. 'Purge the evil person from among you.'"
- 2 Corinthians 6:14–15 (NASB) "Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?"
- **2 Thessalonians 3:6 (NKJV)** "But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us."
- 1 John 3:16–17 (ESV) "By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"
- **Titus 3:9–10 (NKJV)** "But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition."
- 1 Peter 1:13–16 (NASB) "Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"
- 1 John 3:10 (NKJV) "In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother."

- **1 Peter 2:17 (NKJV)** "Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."
- **2 Thessalonians 3:14–15 (NASB)** "If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother."
- 2 John 1:9–11 (NKJV) "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds."

GOD AND HIS PEOPLE WILL SOON ENJOY PERFECT AND UNDISTURBED UNITY FOREVER

God is redeeming a people for Himself through His Son Jesus Christ from every tribe and tongue on earth. The end is near. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming quickly. Someday soon we will all worship Him in perfect unity in the new Heaven and new earth where sin will be no more.

Matthew 24:44–47 (NASB) "For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will. Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions."

2 Peter 3:13–14 (NKJV) "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless."

Revelation 21:22–27 (ESV) "And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life."

CLOSING COMMENTARY

The true church, redeemed by the grace of God through Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit, is critical to the spread of God's kingdom and glory in the world. The Lord Jesus Christ commanded us, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19a NKJV). The church has been given one Savior, one gospel, and one Spirit to offer to the broken world. Jesus connects the unity of His followers—us—to the world knowing that God the Father sent Him.

There are obstacles to unity both inside and outside the church that must be overcome. Sadly, many people have lost confidence in the church. Worse yet, they have lost confidence in the Lord and Savior of the church. There are many reasons for this loss of confidence including sexual abuse, adultery, and financial scandal inside the church. Professing Christians living in ways that are indistinguishable from the rest of the world discredit the truth and power of the gospel. The continual conflict and division of the church is an obstacle to people hearing and trusting the message we proclaim. The Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry's objective is to bring about real change in behavior among Christians to diminish this obstacle.

If ever there were a time for every member of the body of Christ to be united, serving the same purpose, and looking to the same blessed hope, it is now!

The Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry spent seven years studying God's Word and researching the writings of some of the greatest leaders in church history to determine what the Bible really says about Christian unity.

We have developed many resources that quote thousands of Bible passages related to Christian unity to help believers better understand our Lord's passion and instructions for His people to be united in Christ.

Our Book Summaries feature writings on Christian unity from some of the greatest leaders of the Christian faith: Irenaeus, Cyprian, Augustine,

Martin Luther, John Owen, Matthew Henry, Andrew Murray, and more. Our Bible Passage Collections feature insightful samplings from Scripture. And our Exegetical Guides concentrate on the study of specific passages of Scripture related to Christian unity.

You can also enjoy our Premium Collection of resources available as engaging audiobooks, read-on-the-go eBooks, and beautiful print books. Our Premium Collection has something for every believer who wants to know what God's Word says about Christian unity. These inspiring books reveal Scriptures' three great love commandments, the power of God's grace, and Jesus' passion for His people to be united.

You can join with us in the Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry by following three easy steps—LEARN, APPLY, SHARE. We believe that promoting unity among God's people is an act of obedience to God's will and an act of love for your Christian family. Visit www.BeUnitedinChrist.com to learn about our mission, explore our resources, and discover the steps you can take to unite with other brothers and sisters in Christ around the world as we learn together how to "Be United in Christ."



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