

God's Will for **CHRISTIAN UNITY**

30

REVEALING BIBLE PASSAGES



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God's Will for Christian Unity
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PREFACE

Consider this question for a moment: If you had less than a day to live, what would you be thinking about? How would you use the final hours of your life if you knew the end was so close?

Now consider the events from the days before Christ's crucifixion. Jesus, knowing that He only had one more day to live, used His final hours to demonstrate love for His disciples and pray for their unity. To begin this book, we want to consider these three particular events: an act of service, a commandment, and a prayer.

JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET

Washing the feet of guests during the first century was a task reserved for the lowest household servants. It was stinky, smelly work. It fell far beneath the dignity of the powerful, wealthy, and proud. The disciples were shocked when "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded" (John 13:3–5).

Simon Peter tried to refuse this service, not because of his great humility but because of his great confusion. Why would his teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ, stoop so low? Once the task was completed, Jesus explained His actions:

Do you know what I have done to You? You call Me Teacher and Lord . . . for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I**

have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.... If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. (John 13:12–17)

The disciples were right to call Him their teacher and Lord, for that is who He was. All things were created through Him and for Him. In Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form. And yet, He washed their feet. Jesus is the exact representation of the nature of God, and He washes feet. And if He, the Creator and Ruler of the world, so readily serves His disciples, then how much more should His disciples serve one another! That's what Jesus wants us to do. During our brief stay on earth, we should humble ourselves in service to other believers.

JESUS GIVES A NEW COMMANDMENT OF LOVE

From His humble act of service, we turn to His command. Shortly after Jesus washed the disciples' feet, He said,

Little children, I am with you a little while longer.... “Where I am going, you cannot come.” **A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.** (John 13:33–35 NASB)

The disciples already knew that they were expected to love God with all their hearts, souls, and minds and to love their neighbors as themselves. Just two days earlier they had heard Jesus say, “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:40 NASB). Everything God demanded of

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GOD’S WILL IS A REALLY BIG DEAL!

A short, simple statement is critical to the reason this book exists. It’s critical to every Christian’s life. It will be worth remembering as you read: *God’s will is a really big deal!*

Think about those words for a moment. There is a God and He has spoken. “For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited: ‘I am the LORD, and there is no other. I have not spoken in secret’” (Isaiah 45:18–19). The God who created the universe, who is holy and mighty, who is good and glorious, who is lovely and loving, has revealed Himself and His will for His creation. *And His will is a really big deal!*

God’s will is not small and optional. It is big and binding. While some things remain mysterious, God’s will for His people, what He wants from us, does not. God’s will is revealed through the Bible, God’s inspired Word, which is arranged in 66 books containing 31,173 verses and over 800,000 words in the English language. These words reveal God, explain His plan of salvation, and communicate His will for human beings. The Bible explains what is good and pleasing in His sight. The Word of God should not be taken lightly. “It is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life” (Deuteronomy 32:47 NASB).

God’s will is good, just as He is good. Scripture says of God, “You are good, and do good” (Psalm 119:68), which means His Word to us is a gift. Living in accordance with His will helps us live in harmony with our Creator. His words help us live in harmony with His creation. They nourish our souls. They shine light into our daily lives. Words from God are more precious than gold and sweeter than honey, and “by them Your servant is warned, and in

keeping them there is great reward” (Psalm 19:11).

Here’s another way to say it: there are present and eternal rewards and consequences connected to obeying and disobeying God’s will as revealed through His Word. Consider the words of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians:

We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10 NASB)

All must appear before Him. *Each one* will receive what is due. What is due will be based on what we have done. What we have done will be judged according to the will of God, according to His definition of good and bad. It is a staggering idea. Every thought will be judged against the holiness of His thoughts. Every intention of every heart will be weighed against the purity of His intentions. Every decision we make and every desire we follow during our short time on earth will be exposed, weighed, and judged or rewarded on the last day.

The thought should sober and unnerve us. After redeeming the people of Israel from Egypt and leading them through the wilderness for forty years, the Lord began to prepare them for the Promised Land. He set two paths before them: obedience or disobedience, blessing or cursing, life or death.

I call Heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that **I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may

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GOD'S WILL IS CHRISTIAN UNITY

- 1 Loving God Requires Loving Others
- 2 We Must Love Each Other
- 3 Jesus Commands Us to Love
- 4 Jesus Prays for Our Unity
- 5 Different but One
- 6 Live in Harmony!

God desires the unity of His people. Our unity is His will. The God who created us also cares for us. Through Scripture He reveals our deep problem with sin and our separation from Him. He reveals how we can be forgiven, reconciled to Him, and saved from His wrath.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the climax of the Bible. Because of His death and resurrection, those who repent from their sin and turn to Christ are reconciled to God. They are grafted together in the church, the body of Christ, and sent into the world to make disciples of their Lord. They are sent with the message of salvation in Christ, and they are sent with their testimony that Jesus really is the Christ. Their testimony can be summarized in the words *love* and *unity*.

Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35 ESV). By the Holy Spirit we are enabled to love one another. Jesus prayed to the Father for His followers, “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” (John 17:23). Through the Holy Spirit we are united to Christ and to each other. This section focuses on God’s command that Christians love one another and learn to live in harmony with one another so that Christ is exalted above all things and the power of the gospel is displayed throughout the world. Fulfilling the three great love commandments—loving God, others, and other Christians—glorifies God, evangelizes the lost, and accomplishes His will for Christian unity.

1

LOVING GOD REQUIRES LOVING OTHERS

Jesus said to him, “**You shall love the LORD your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind....
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:37, 39

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD.
YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

Jesus answered two different, critical questions in the same way. When asked, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 10:25) and then, “Which is the great [most important] commandment?” (Matthew 22:36), Jesus offered the same answer: Love God and love your neighbor. If there is a way for human beings to earn their way to God and obtain eternal life, then Jesus spelled it out. His response captured the essence of God’s Law.

In Luke 10, the lawyer summed up the Law of God by saying, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself’” (v. 27), to which Jesus replied, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live” (v. 28).

A sobering thought. Love God with your whole heart. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. Do these two things perfectly for your whole life and you will live with God forever. The opposite must also be true: fail in any way, and you will die. The law of God is that serious. The cost of disobedience is that severe. The following pages explore the connection between these two great commandments of God and eternal life and how they relate to Christian unity, which, as we will see in chapter three, is the third great love commandment.

THE LONG-STANDING LAW OF LOVE

The questions posed to Jesus were not new questions, and His answers were not new answers. Jesus quoted from the Old Testament in responding to the lawyers. Loving God has always been connected to loving others. Life with God has always been connected to life with others. Centuries earlier Moses had written,

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:5)

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
(Leviticus 19:18)

God created us to love. God redeems us to love. We will be judged against the law of love. These commands are supposed to completely shape our affections and actions in daily life. Jesus meant to echo Moses when He answered the lawyer,

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.... You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
(Matthew 22:37, 39)

God created us to love Him with our whole being. With all our affections and thoughts, with all our attitudes and activities, we are to love Him. God also created us to love one another. Throughout history we have not done well. Since Adam's disobedience, we have been selfish, loving ourselves rather than our Lord and seeking our own interests rather than the interests of others. Apart from the grace of God in Christ, we are incapable of perfect love. Yet love remains God's desire and demand. Love for God and others remains the standard by which He will judge the world.

LOVING GOD INCLUDES OBEYING GOD

Gary Chapman's *Five Love Languages*¹ has helped thousands of marriages by helping husbands and wives to understand that the way their spouse communicates love might not be the way they perceive love. God does even better; He tells us clearly how He wants us to love Him. Many Scriptures state it plainly:

If you love Me, **keep My commandments**. (John 14:15)

He who has My commandments and keeps them,
it is he who loves Me. (John 14:21)

If anyone loves Me, he will **keep My word**. (John 14:23)

You are My friends if you do whatever I command
you. (John 15:14)

By this we know that we know Him, if we **keep
His commandments**. (1 John 2:3)

Since God created every human on the planet, every human is accountable to God. If we love God, then we will keep His commandments. The validity of every claim to love God can be confirmed by obedience to His commandments.

OBEYING GOD INCLUDES LOVING OTHERS

God commands us to love our neighbors, which makes it an essential part of loving Him. Among other things, loving God means loving others. Scripture does not make allowance for a person who claims to love God while hating other people.

If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for **the one who does not love his brother . . . cannot love God**. (1 John 4:20 NASB)

How far does the command extend? When God commands us to love, who does He have in mind? Everyone, just as God loves everyone. We are even commanded to love our enemies.

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Whoever hits you on the

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GOD HATES CHRISTIAN DISUNITY

- 7** Sowing Discord Is an Abomination
- 8** Do Not Hate Other Christians
- 9** Do You Want to Inherit the Kingdom of God?
- 10** Division Destroys!
- 11** Fools Quarrel
- 12** Do Not Divide

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SOWING DISCORD IS AN ABOMINATION

These six things **the Lord hates**, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and **one who sows discord among brethren**.

Proverbs 6:16–19

THE LORD HATES ONE WHO
SOWS DISCORD AMONG BRETHREN.

The Lord hates. He hates with a pure and holy hatred. Are you comfortable with that? Most people do not like it. After all, God is love (1 John 4:8). His mercies never fail (Lamentations 3:22). The leading edges of His glory are His goodness and grace (Exodus 33:19; Ephesians 1:6, 14). And yet there are things the Lord hates. Not a little, but immensely. Not in a shallow, flippant way, but deeply, actively, and personally. Certain things people think, feel, and do are “abominations” to Him.

**If we believe
in a God
of infinite
love, then
we must
also believe
in a God
of perfect
hatred.**

The word *abomination* means *detestable* or *grotesque*. If God calls something an abomination, He means it arouses disgust and anger in His soul. When God brought the people of Israel across the Jordan to dispossess those nations, they were not “to follow the *abominations* of those nations” (Deuteronomy 18:9). They were not to burn their children as sacrifices. They were not to practice various forms of sorcery and witchcraft, “for all who do these things are an *abomination* to the LORD” (Deuteronomy 18:11–12). The same Hebrew word for abomination is used in Proverbs 6. God places haughty eyes, a lying

tongue, and other divisive practices in the same category as burning children to death and practicing divination. What a sobering truth! The Lord loathes those who cause disunity in His household.

If we believe in a God of infinite love, then we must also believe in a God of perfect hatred. If we believe in a God who cares

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BE UNITED IN CHRIST

13 Jesus Unites All God's People

14 United in Christ

15 One Mind, One Spirit

16 We Are Family

17 Many As One

18 One

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UNITED IN CHRIST

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for **you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Galatians 3:28

YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.

God uses the gospel of Jesus Christ to accomplish in our lives and relationships what no other message, philosophy, or program could ever dream of achieving: true and lasting unity. God establishes this unity by joining each of us to Jesus Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Through that baptism, He joins each of us together through a shared union with Jesus Christ. Paul says, “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,” *because* “as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:26–27).

Our union is not defined by being a Jew or Gentile, a slave or freedman, a male or female any longer. The source of our unity is Jesus Christ. There can be no unity apart from union with Jesus Christ. All the ways we preferred to divide our relationships and choose our friendships do not matter any more. All the ways the world likes to categorize and segregate people don’t matter in the church. God sets the terms of membership in His family. The Lord has chosen to redeem people of many colors, shapes, and sizes, from many cultures and backgrounds. Christians have been united in Jesus Christ, and they must learn to value and love each other.

Accepting and obeying this truth has always been difficult for professing Christians. From the early days of the church until now, people who claim Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior have struggled to receive into the church and love with equal affection people of different ethnicity, skin color, social standing, gender, and economic status. Because of our sin, we prefer people who look, sound, and act like us. We sinfully gravitate toward people who make us feel comfortable.

NEITHER JEW NOR GREEK

While Paul recognized the existence of Jews and Greeks, he did not see one group as superior to the other. In Christ they stand on level ground. They are saved by the same blood and called by the same name. They are destined for the same heavenly glory. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16), whether African or Asian or American, whether dark-skinned or light-skinned or something in the middle.

Division in the church on ethnic grounds has been one of the foulest blights on the gospel in the history of the church. The ethnic group in power is usually to blame. Dividing along ethnic lines paints a false, misleading, and ugly picture of the gospel. So dreadful is the image portrayed by this kind of disunity that Paul publicly confronted Peter on the issue:

Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. (Galatians 2:11–13)

Until certain Jews arrived from Jerusalem, Peter fellowshiped with Gentiles. He treated them as family. After all, Christ had made the two into one: “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation” (Ephesians 2:14). Peter had already defended the grace of God before the

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UNITY IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

- 19 Preserve Unity
- 20 Pursue Peace
- 21 Strive to End Strife
- 22 Be Reconciled
- 23 We Must Forgive!
- 24 Abound in Love

Though we did not create unity, God has given us the responsibility of preserving it. Because of sin we can cause division in the church, and so we must learn to deal with sin truthfully and quickly. Unity is a gift from God. It comes to us through the Holy Spirit, who places us into Christ, who enables us to diligently preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1–3).

Peace does not come easily. We pursue it (Romans 14:19). Since contentions will occur in the body of Christ, we exert energy striving to end strife (Genesis 13:8). Blessed are the peacemakers. They really are the sons and daughters of God (Matthew 5:9). Christians in conflict must be reconciled (Matthew 5:23–24). When we wrong others, we repent and seek their forgiveness. When others seek our forgiveness, we forgive as we have been forgiven (Ephesians 4:32).

If we possess the Holy Spirit, then our love for God and others will not grow cold. Our love will grow as we are conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. We pray to constantly increase our love for one another (1 Thessalonians 3:12).

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WE MUST FORGIVE!

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

Ephesians 4:32

FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER,
EVEN AS GOD IN CHRIST FORGAVE YOU.

We just focused on the call to repent and be reconciled to a brother or sister we have wronged. There's another side: we are called to forgive and be reconciled to a brother or sister who has wronged us. Forgiveness is the act of canceling a debt or pardoning a crime. In both cases, the wrongdoer goes free because his debt or punishment has been satisfied.

When a brother or sister in Christ wrongs us, they accrue a relational debt. Our relationship is harmed. When they repent and seek our forgiveness, they are asking us to accept the sacrifice of Christ in their place. It is a critical moment in the life of every Christian, the moment when someone asks for our forgiveness. The grace of God is needed. A clear grasp of the gospel is vital.

**Forgiveness
is not small.
It is grand.**

After all, forgiveness does not arise from thin air. Apart from God's help we are incapable of genuine forgiveness. Especially when we're angry and upset, forgiveness requires a clear understanding of the grace we have received in Christ. We must know the meaning of the phrase "even as God in Christ forgave you." The grace we have received from God through Jesus is the foundation for the command to "be kind to

one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another." One leads to the other. We forgive because we have been forgiven. In fact, our willingness to forgive each other is evidence that we have been forgiven in the first place.

IN CHRIST, GOD FORGAVE US

Forgiveness is a massive theme in Scripture. The greatest needs of every human being are forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God. We do not need fancy cars or big houses. We do not need successful careers. We do not need healthy bodies or fine food. We need grace. We need forgiveness.

In Christ we have been offered forgiveness. Only in Christ do we receive forgiveness. “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13–14). God sent His Son into the world to purchase forgiveness for His people. The purchase price was beyond measure. *His blood!*

Through the blood of Christ, atonement for sin was made and the wrath of God was satisfied. With the blood of Jesus Christ our sins are covered. When the Holy Spirit granted us faith and united us to Jesus, our sins were pardoned. Eternal life was awarded. “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses” (Colossians 2:13). This is the gospel. It is the good news of our forgiveness.

IN CHRIST, WE GLORY IN FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is not small. It is grand. If your sins have been forgiven, then you rank among the most blessed of all people. “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit” (Psalm 32:1–2). Do you rejoice in this truth?

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NOT ALL UNITY IS CHRISTIAN UNITY

- 25 God Commands Division
- 26 No Unity Without Sound Doctrine
- 27 Holy, Holy, Holy Is the Lord God Almighty
- 28 Avoid People Who Divide

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GOD COMMANDS DIVISION

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?... **What has a believer in common with an unbeliever?**

2 Corinthians 6:14–15 (NASB)

DO NOT BE BOUND TOGETHER
WITH UNBELIEVERS.

Forty miles northeast of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, lies a national landmark known as “the Parting of the Waters.” Here at Two Ocean Pass the Two Ocean Creek encounters the Continental Divide and forks into the Atlantic Creek and the Pacific Creek. Water that had flowed together now divides toward two opposite destinations as far apart as east is from west.

Christ has this same effect on people. He is the Great Divider who separates individuals into two different directions toward two opposite destinies. People encountering Christ either love or hate Him, trust or reject Him, embrace or renounce Him. Based on their decisions their lives diverge and their characters develop along two radically different paths. Christ’s disciples head into ever-brightening light while His denouncers depart into ever-deepening

darkness. Eventually they will meet Christ again at the Judgment Seat where He will separate them forever into Heaven and Hell. There will be no blending or confusion of the two groups. They will stand apart as stark as wheat from chaff, dross from silver, and life from death.

The church should reflect this contrast between Christians and non-Christians so that unbelievers clearly see their differences and prayerfully choose to follow Christ. If the church is no different than the world, then why should people

in the world leave it to join the church? By gathering the light and keeping it distinct from the darkness the church shines more brightly into the darkness in order to beckon people to come to

**Division is
necessary for
true Christian
unity to exist
and persist.**

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THE BEAUTY OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

29 Christian Unity Is God's Plan

30 God Blesses Christian Unity

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GOD BLESSES CHRISTIAN UNITY

Behold, **how good and how pleasant it is for brethren
to dwell together in unity!**

Psalm 133:1

HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IS UNITY!

At the moment these words are being written, the world is at war. Terrorists are shooting and bombing innocent people across the globe. There are hostilities between nations. There are hostilities within nations. Finger-pointing abounds. Blame fills the pages of newspapers and social commentaries. There is no end to accusation. The streams of anger, grief, and despair form a tumultuous river of misery in our communities. There is no peace. There is no love. How dreadful and woeful it is for people to dwell together in hostility!

God's desire for His people is very different. God sent His Son to redeem and reconcile (2 Corinthians 5:19). Though we are for war, Christ has "made peace through the blood of His cross" (Colossians 1:20). Though we are for division, God is uniting us through His Son and teaching us the value of unity. In Christ we realize *how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*

SONGS OF UNITY

Psalm 133 celebrates the goodness and pleasantness of unity. It is one of the Songs of Ascents, songs Jewish pilgrims sang as they journeyed to Jerusalem for the appointed feasts. These songs told a beautiful story. The first song of ascents captured the experience of life far away from Jerusalem: "Woe is me, that I dwell in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar! My soul has dwelt too long with one who hates peace" (Psalm 120:5–6). Then, as the dangerous journey began, they cried out, "I will lift up my eyes to the hills—from whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, who made Heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1–2). They relied on God to guard their steps.

The songs were unifying. Individuals would gather into little groups, singing the same words to the same melodies in worship of

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CHAPTER SUMMARIES

Chapter 1: Loving God Requires Loving Others

The heart of the Law is wholehearted love for God expressed in obedience (Deuteronomy 6:4–5; John 14:15, 21, 23). Loving obedience to God requires us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to love other believers as Christ loved us (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37–40; John 13:34–35). If we do not love our neighbors, we disobey God, for “love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:8–10). If we do not love other believers, we do not love God, for “the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen” (1 John 4:20 NASB). Loving God, our neighbors, and other Christians are the three great love commandments.

Chapter 2: We Must Love Each Other

John was a “Son of Thunder” (Mark 3:17), who became known as “the Apostle of Love.” His plea for love is based on the character of God and provides a test for those who actually know God (1 John 4:7–8). If we have been born again by the Holy Spirit, then we have been born into the family of God, and He commands His children to love one another in response to His love (1 John 3:11; 4:10–11, 21). If we want to love God and others, then we must be born again, for love is of God. Love is the universal debt that Christians owe, the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:8). It is expressed and reinforced in the intimate fellowship of God’s family as they gather together (1 Corinthians 16:19–20).

 **Note: some pages are omitted from this book preview.**

CLOSING COMMENTS

If this book has made an impression, if you are convicted, please commit each day to preserving Christian unity through these three steps:

STEP 1 – LEARN

Learn what the Bible really says. God's Word reveals God's will. *God's Will for Christian Unity* contains references and explains numerous passages from the inspired Word of God. It is written to reveal our Lord's passion and instruction on the meaning, importance, and expression of Christian unity. We pray that your understanding of Scripture will transform the way you think about, feel, and act toward other believers in accordance with God's will.

In this book we have tried to present the importance of the three great love commandments in God's plan for Christian unity. We have shown that God hates disunity among His children. We have pointed to our Lord's passion for His children to be one, to be united in Christ. We have uncovered that unity in the body of Christ is the responsibility of every follower of Jesus Christ. We have explained that not all unity is truly Christian unity. We have pointed out the importance and beauty of Christian unity.

By reading *God's Will For Christian Unity*, you have learned what the Bible really says about Christian unity. It is now your responsibility to apply the revelations in God's Word to your everyday life.

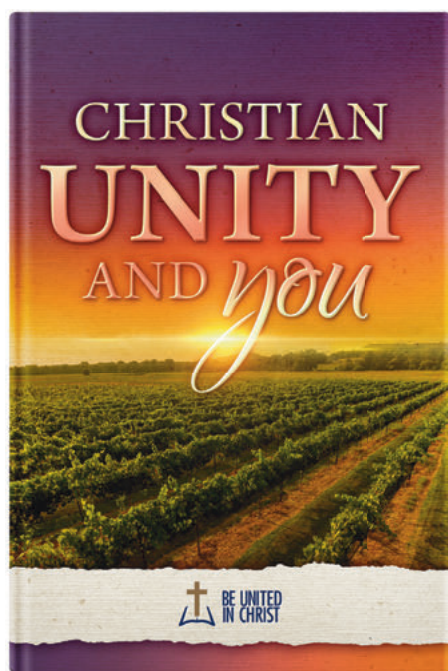
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LIFE CHANGING RESOURCES

YOU CAN LOVE LIKE JESUS.

Imagine how the world could be transformed if Christians loved each other the way Jesus asked them to. Jesus' life is the greatest example of love that the world has ever seen. He told His disciples to love one another as He loved them. When believers live in visible love and unity as Christ lived—unity based on Biblical truth—we will begin to experience a taste of what Heaven will be like.

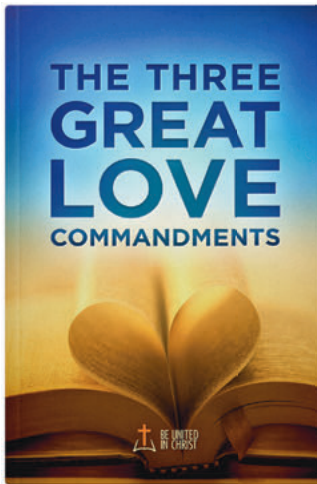
Our Premium Collection of books may be purchased from the Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry at www.beunitedinchrist.com.



A **THIRD** GREAT LOVE COMMANDMENT.

Within every human heart is the desire to be loved and to show love. It is the mark of God on our lives—a God who embodies love, who IS love, according to the Bible. In His Word, God gives us three great commandments, rules for operating in love with Him, with others, and with our Christian family. These commands should provide the foundation for everything we say and do.

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Basic Edition



Deluxe Edition



**BE UNITED
IN CHRIST**

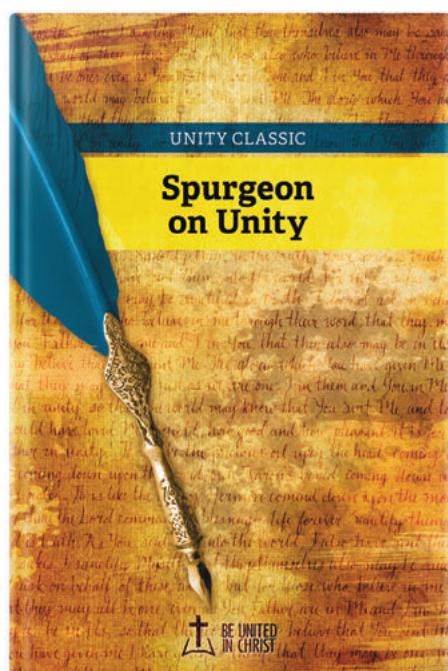
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JOIN THE BE UNITED IN CHRIST OUTREACH MINISTRY

ENJOY THE LIFE CHRIST INTENDS FOR YOU.

The most prominent preacher of the 19th century, Charles Spurgeon pastored the world's largest mega-church and spoke to millions. Considered one of the greatest preachers in church history, his messages are as inspiring today as when they were first preached. *Spurgeon on Unity* lets you slip into the pew of this “Prince of Preachers” as he applies God’s Word to one of your greatest needs.

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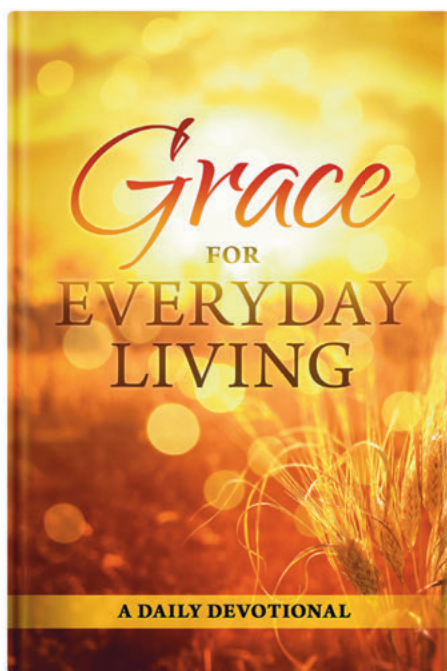


www.beunitedinchrist.com

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH GOD'S GRACE?

God sees you. He loves you. And He wants you to experience a full and blessed life. In the 365-day devotional, *Grace for Everyday Living*, some of Christianity's most respected voices cast light on topics such as how to maintain a peaceful spirit, love others, and freely enjoy God's grace and mercy. Your life will be transformed as you discover the excitement of pleasing God and obeying His Word.

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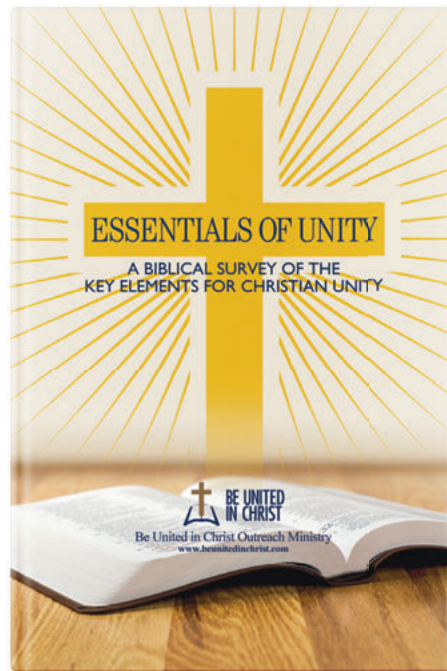


JOIN THE BE UNITED IN CHRIST OUTREACH MINISTRY

UNITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR GOD'S PEOPLE.

The Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry has written *Essentials of Unity* from a great sense of conviction ... to better understand God's will for the unity of His people, how He achieves it, and what He asks of each of us in preserving it. *Essentials of Unity* explains significant Biblical themes for understanding Christian unity and how these Biblical themes connect to one another in the storyline of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.

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www.beunitedinchrist.com

FEEL THE **PASSION** OF CHRIST FOR UNITY.

In John 17:20–23, Jesus prayed for His disciples to be **one** ... united with Him and each other. In His prayer, we hear the passion of Jesus Christ for the union of His people to God and to one another. *One: The Passion and Prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ* was written to help God's people understand the nature of this unity as well as how it is to be accomplished in the body of Christ.

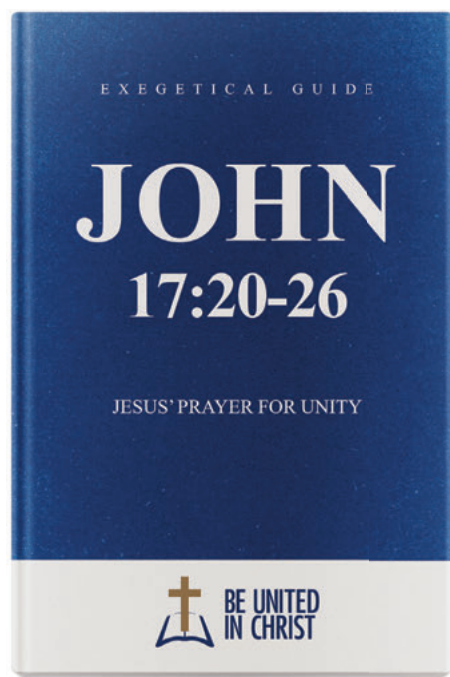
Our Premium Collection of books may be purchased from the Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry at www.beunitedinchrist.com.



LEARN WHAT JESUS PRAYED FOR YOU.

In the hours just before He was crucified, Jesus prayed for you. But what did He pray? And why does it matter? With the *John 17:20-26* Exegetical Guide, you will see through Jesus' eyes and be moved by what He prayed for you at this critical time. You will find where you belong. And your desire to draw closer to God and to other believers will grow as you read this inspiring guide.

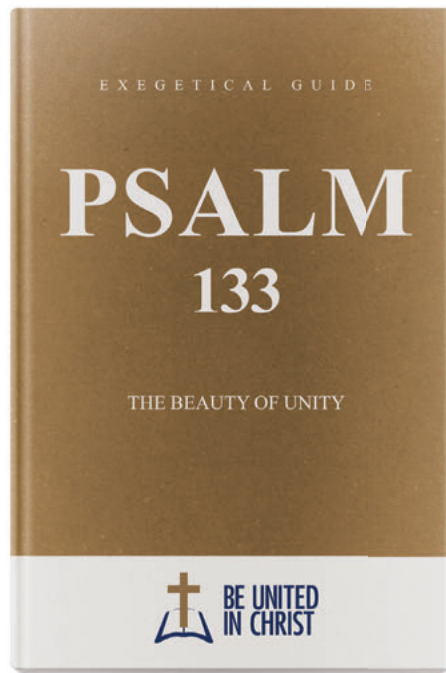
Our Premium Collection of books may be purchased from the Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry at www.beunitedinchrist.com.



DEVELOP A RICH CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

Blessing. Peace. Eternal life. How can you experience them for yourself? Explore *Psalm 133* and learn King David's song of the goodness and pleasantness of God's children living in harmony. You will discover that unity is not only God's desire but also His design to lead you into the satisfying life He desires for you to experience.

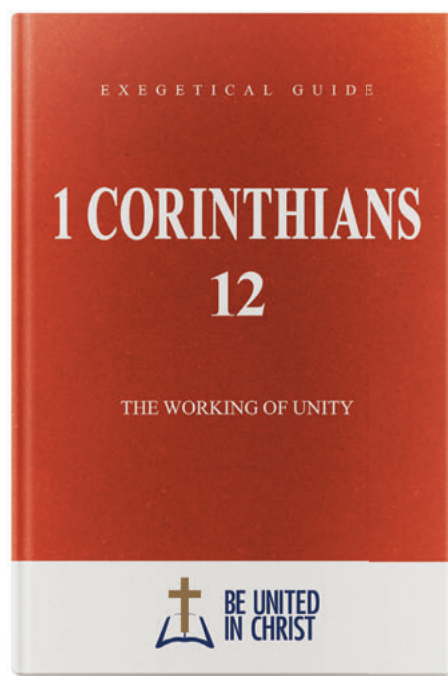
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UNCOVER YOUR PURPOSE IN GOD'S PLAN.

All of us want to belong, to feel connected, to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. For the Christian, these desires find their fulfillment in Christ and in the life He has designed for His church. The *1 Corinthians 12* Exegetical Guide will show you how God intends to fulfill your deep need to belong. You have a reserved position in His plan. You have a unique place, and you have a vital role.

Our Premium Collection of books may be purchased from the Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry at www.beunitedinchrist.com.



JOIN THE BE UNITED IN CHRIST OUTREACH MINISTRY



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

The Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry is committed to teaching and promoting Bible-based Christian unity worldwide in order to bring about real change in the body of Christ.

As finances are available, we also help support Christ-centered ministries around the world including Christian orphanages, Christian drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, Bible colleges, Christian K-12 schools, after-school programs for at-risk children, the preaching of the gospel, and humanitarian efforts.

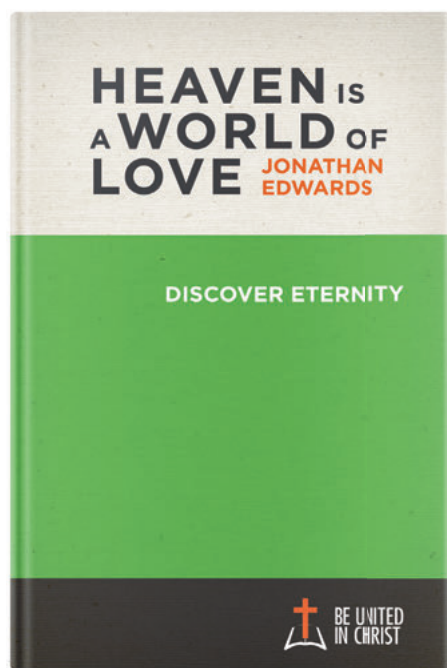
Consider making a donation at www.beunitedinchrist.com. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



HOW WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY?

In the history of Christianity, no one has written as vividly on the subjects of Heaven and Hell as Jonathan Edwards. *Heaven Is a World of Love* combines Edwards' most powerful sermons and presents them in modern-day language. Be encouraged with the hope of Heaven, sobered by the horrors of Hell, and assured that you can spend eternity enjoying God's love.

Our Premium Collection of books may be purchased from the Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry at www.beunitedinchrist.com.

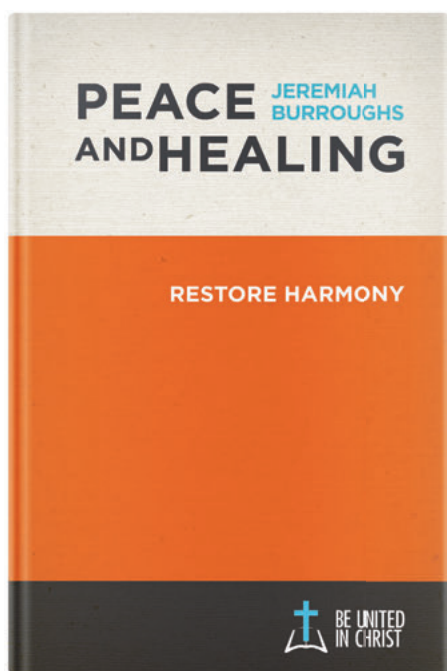


JOIN THE BE UNITED IN CHRIST OUTREACH MINISTRY

BRING HARMONY TO YOUR CHRISTIAN FAMILY.

What if your church could be conflict-free? Drawn from the wisdom of respected Puritan preacher Jeremiah Burroughs, *Peace and Healing* reveals the sources and dangers of conflict within God's family and recommends God's solutions. Get to the root of disunity and bring love and harmony to the most important relationships in your life.

Our Premium Collection of books may be purchased from the Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry at www.beunitedinchrist.com.



www.beunitedinchrist.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

The mission of the Be United in Christ Outreach Ministry is to teach and promote Christian unity in accordance with God's Word. Our goal is to bring about real change in the body of Christ by helping believers to better understand our Lord's will for His people to "Be United in Christ."

We thank our brothers and sisters in Christ who support this world-wide outreach ministry in three ways.

First, we thank you for purchasing our Bible-based resources. Your purchase provides our ministry with financial support to continue to produce Bible-based resources to be distributed around the globe.

Second, we thank you for making tax-deductible donations to our ministry on **BeUnitedinChrist.com** to help us promote a loving union between believers that draws people to the truth of the gospel.

Third, we thank all of our faithful family of believers who regularly pray for our continued impact around the world as we await the glorious return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.**



www.beunitedinchrist.com

Christians regularly pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven. But what is God's will? And why did Jesus say that knowing and obeying it is essential to entering His kingdom? He said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father will enter Heaven."

God's Will for Christian Unity clearly communicates our heavenly Father's deep desire for His children to live in loving harmony. Thirty revealing chapters convey God's love of unity and hatred of disunity, along with His definition of what type of togetherness is worth preserving and pursuing. Within the pages of this life-changing book, you will find God's plan for unity in the body of Christ.

Create the community God wants for you. Overcome differences and walk in harmony with other believers. Learn and apply *God's Will for Christian Unity*.

Visit **BeUnitedinChrist.com** to find more life-changing resources!

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.

