

What Does the 'Spirit of Oneness' Mean?

BE THE MIRROR OF CHANGE THAT YOU WISH TO SEE IN OTHERS

We live in a world today where we are encouraged, or sometimes even forced, to consider ourselves separate from one another. And yet I believe we all come from One Source.

We are here not just to live for ourselves but to uplift and inspire others. If we can begin the process of looking for ways of including ourselves in the human race of souls rather than excluding ourselves at every opportunity, our lives will become less complex and more manageable. Life will still be a series of challenges, all at different levels, but we will meet them in a state of inspired and creative thought with joy, peace and serenity.

Because all believers are presently individually one with Christ, we are also already one with each other. We are all one Body with a single Head, **Christ**. Christ died to make us one. Whether we individually believe that we are one, or act like we are one, does not change the fact that we are one. We need each other. What affects me, affects you. We cannot create our oneness, it already exists. But we have a choice, whether or not to live in conformity with our Christian unity.

Our oneness with Christ is an accomplished fact, but bearing fruit in our relationship with Christ is a process. Our oneness with each other in Christ is also a fact, but its revelation to and in the world is a process. Christian oneness is complete already; visible Christian unity is work in progress.

It is the demonstration of our oneness through works of love and an attitude of humility that shows our salvation—our relationship to Christ our Head—to the world. God has called each of us to choose to live in this way.

God has made many promises to the Church. He has, for instance, promised restoration from many of the effects of sin, as well as peace, joy, healing, provision of physical needs, answered prayer, boldness in witnessing and works greater than those of the Apostles. Modern preaching often individualizes these promises, but they were made to the Church. In their proper context, they were made for the benefit of the Church, so that the world would see Christ in and through His Body, living in Christian unity. They are available to us individually only as we choose to live in unity with each other.

Obviously, failure to live out our oneness will interfere with the fulfillment of God's promises. Beyond this, however, it will cause all of the members of the Body to suffer in one way or another. A sick human body remains one body, even if some of its parts no longer recognize each other. It remains one body, but loses some of its functions, and all of its members suffer. The New Testament uses two diseases—gangrene and leprosy—as analogies of the effects of disunity. This chapter discusses these analogies in detail, and also draws analogies to two other classes of diseases—autoimmune diseases and cancer. It then traces the relationship between the lack of Church unity, the apparent powerlessness of the modern Church, and the prevalence of guilt, fear, anxiety, mental illness, various physical illnesses, premature death, offenses, lawsuits and false teachers in the modern Church. All of these evils in the church can be traced largely to our refusal to live in conformity with our oneness.

Indeed, the true source of our relationships between each other as believers is the relationships within God Himself. Our oneness is God's picture of Himself to the world. We are the image of God's oneness. God's nature contains diversity of persons, in mutual submission to each other. It is also characterized by order. Diversity, mutual submission and order in God are not in tension with each other.

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Listening

Jeremiah 22:21

God Had blessed and prospered his people. Yet instead of praising him, many had forgotten him. Instead of thanking him, they had taken him for granted. Instead of obeying him, many had turned their back on him and ignored his word. Instead of listening when he tried to speak to them, correct them, and warn the, they had followed the people around them. Then they wondered why they had so many problems. God knows when we are blinded by our prosperity—how we forget him and refuse to listen. The people had become secure and at ease, so comfortable that they stopped seeking him.

They turned away from him and gone their own way. Today, God stands ready to bless and prosper us. But he also knows that prosperity can impact us in negative way. Unless we are mature and ready, prosperity might encourage us to forget about him as so many others have done. If you want God to prosper you, make sure that you listen to him. Surrender every area of your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ—your finances and relationships, hobbies and habits, thoughts and emotions. Seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and let him lead you. God can and will prosper you!!!

What Does the 'Spirit of Oneness' Mean? Continued

The underlying cause of all of the visible division in the Church is our desire to have our own way, regardless of what God wants or of what would benefit others. This desire for our own way can manifest as a desire to dominate the church. But it can also manifest itself in covetousness, envying, strife, offenses, stumbling blocks, judgmental attitudes, comparison of ourselves to others, unforgiveness, bitterness and bondage.

The opposite of seeking our own way is being under submission to God's authority. A part of our submission to God's authority is submission to human authority He has established. However, the human authority God establishes is not dictatorial. In God's Kingdom, the greatest among us are our servants. The key to the matter of authority and submission is that we are all to be in mutual submission to each other under God. Thus, unlike the way authority operates in the world, in a properly functioning Church we submit to those God has placed in authority and they also submit to us. This chapter also develops the concept that that the five "offices" listed in Ephesians 4:11-13 are not intended to define roles of authority in the Church, nor to limit the "real" work of the Church to the holders of these "offices." Instead, this passage was intended to name five broad classes of people Christ Himself gives to the Church to equip the rest of us to do the real work of the Church.

However, we as Christians must work on all sides together harmoniously, recognizing that the blood of Christ is stronger than our differences and outlooks. In Saint John Chapter 17, Jesus explains the great importance of our oneness, and delivers a stirring call to us each individually to live the oneness of the Body of Christ.

Pastor Jenkins-

ARE YOU F.A.T.? 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (Amplified Bible)

16 Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action), **17** So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Have you ever been approached and asked ARE YOU F.A.T.? As a former athlete and coach who has put on a few pounds since my glory days, you might find it surprising if someone was to ask you this. The FAT that I am talking about might not be the same one that you are thinking about. I'm talking about ARE you Faithful, Available, and Teachable. We need F.A.T. people involved in the ministry. To be honest with you we need F.A.T. people in every area of our lives. Athletes need to be F.A.T. Coaches need to be F.A.T. Pastors need to be F.A.T. The list goes on. The questions you need to ask yourself is "Am I F.A.T.?" Am I faithful to my **Church?** My **family?** The **Lord?** Am I available to **help, serve,** or even **listen?** Am I **teachable** in this **ministry?** At **work?** In my **walk with Christ?** Am I F.A.T.? As for me, well I have to look in the mirror, and while I am working on being less fat in stature, I hope to always be F.A.T. in Christ.

My advice to you is to **super-size it. Go large!** Make it a **biggie size.** Be F.A.T. for Christ. He is the one that needs you to be **faithful, available,** and **teachable** for his purposes and His glory. By the way parents, I want to challenge you all to make your kids F.A.T.

Pastor Quinn

How do you measure Love?

How can you measure what is important in your life? By how much you talk about it? Give money to it? Proclaim your love for it? I rather think not. The best way to measure the importance of things in your life is to measure by how much time you are willing to invest in them. The more time you give to something, the more you reveal its importance and value to you. So, if you want to know an individual's priorities, just look at how they use their time.

Time is a most precious gift because we only have a set amount of it. You can make more money, find more friends, even marry more wives/husbands, but you cannot make more time on this earth. Therefore, when you give someone your time, you are actually giving them a portion of your life that you will never get back. Our time IS our life. That is why one of the greatest gifts we can give to someone else is our time.

It is not enough just to say relationships are important; that we love one another; or that we even love GOD; we must prove it by investing our time in them. Words alone are worthless. 1 John 3:18 reminds us, "My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action." Relationships take time and effort to development, therefore the best way to spell love is T-I-M-E.

The essence of love is not what we think or do or provide for others, but how much we give of ourselves. Men, in particular, often don't understand this as I've heard so many say, "I don't understand my wife and kids. I provide everything they need. What more could they want?" They want YOU! Your eyes, your ears, your attention, your presence, your focus—your time. Nothing can substitute for that. The most desired gift of love is not diamonds or roses or chocolates. It is focused attention. Love that can concentrate so intently on the other that you actually forget yourself in that moment. Attention says, "I value you enough to give you my most precious asset—my time." Whenever you give your time, you're making a sacrifice, and sacrifice is the essence of love.

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. "God so loved the world that he gave...." Love means giving up—yielding your preferences, comfort, goals, security, money, energy, or time for the benefit of someone else. NOW is the best time to express love because you really don't know how long you'll have the opportunity. Circumstances change. People die. Children grow up. None of us have any guarantees for tomorrow. Therefore, if you want to express love, you'd better do it now because when we stand before God we're probably going to have to explain some of our actions: What about those times when projects or "things" were more important than people? Who did you actually spend more time with? Shenana? Who did you actually make sacrifices for?

The best use of life is LOVE. The best expression of love is TIME. The best time to love is NOW.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<h1>April 2009</h1>			1 Mid-Week Service 7:00 pm Youth Bible Study 6:00pm Dance Practice 5:30	2 Choir Practice	3
5	6 Prayer 7:00- 7:30 Leadership 7:30-8:00	7 Tuesday 6:30 Men In Pursuit of God Decision Making 1 Women's Ministry 6:30	8 Mid-Week Service 7:00 pm Youth Bible Study Dance Practice 5:30 Food Fellowship	9 Choir Practice	10
12 Easter Program 4:00pm	13 Prayer 7:00- 7:30 Leadership 7:30-8:00	14 Tuesday 6:30 Men In Pursuit of God Decision Making 2 Women's Ministry 6:30	15 Mid-Week Service 7:00 pm Youth Bible Study Dance Practice 5:30	16 Choir Practice	17
19	20 Prayer 7:00- 7:30 Leadership 7:30-8:00	21 Tuesday 6:30 Men In Pursuit of God	22 Mid-Week Service 7:00 pm Youth Bible Study Dance Practice 5:30	23 Choir Practice	24
26	27 Prayer 7:00- 7:30 Leadership 7:30-8:00	28 Tuesday 6:30 Men In Pursuit of God	29 Mid-Week Service 7:00 pm Youth Bible Study Dance Practice 5:30	30 Choir Practice	30
					



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Morning Worship 11am
Bible Class Wed. Evenings 7pm

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