

STUDY II – PRINCIPLE OF UNITY

UNITY (Body Participation) – We are One Body, united with one another in fellowship.

Introduction:

In this session, we will cover **unity** in the Body of Christ.

God created the world to operate in **unity**, so together we can carry out His purpose.

- Unity is what Jesus prayed for—He prayed for us to have unity with God and with one another (John 17:20-23)
- Unity is found in Christ (Galatians 3:28)
- Unity is where God commands His blessings (Psalms 133)

Paul used the *metaphor* of a Body to describe the relationships among Christ followers. Christ not only saves you, but He also unites you with other Christ followers, so you can operate as One Body. Being **saved** and **united** with Christ's church means the Body is *inseparable*. What an honor and privilege it is to be saved and called to Christ's Body! As Christ's Body, we are expected to live in unity.

How can a Christ follower unite with Christ's Body and walk in Oneness?

APPLICATION OF UNITY

In Romans 12:4-5, Paul commands the Roman church to walk in unity with one another.

Study Scripture: v4. For as in **one body** we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, v5. so we, though many, are **one body** in Christ, and **individually members** of one another.

In verses **four and five**, the key phrases are:

- “in **one body** we have many members”
- “we, though many, are **one body** in Christ”
- “**individually members of one another**”

Paul emphasizes we are many, but we are **unified** as one body and we **belong** to one another. We can apply these verses through *fellowship* and *accountability*.

- **Fellowship** is the mutually beneficial relationship between Christ followers, who can't have the identical relationship with those outside the faith. Christian fellowship means we have all things in *common* and *jointly share* with one another for the *mutual benefit* of each member.

The oneness Jesus referred to in His prayer for unity (John 17:20-23) is our fellowship with one another. We are united with one another by our common beliefs, purposes, and mission. Our minds are “other-worldly” because we follow Jesus Christ, who said that His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36).

- **Accountability** requires being answerable to one another because we “*belong to one another.*” Genuine fellowship means we are accountable to assemble with one another, live a life of

holiness, and use our gifts and resources to support the mission of building community and making disciples.

Being in fellowship with and being accountable to other Christ followers helps us (1) to reinforce our way of life in Christ in our minds and (2) to focus on Christ and His desires and goals for us. In true Christian fellowship with accountability, you will be sharpened in your walk to become more like Christ, just as iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17). In community, you will continually be stirred up to walk like Jesus by living by His words and doing His works.

“A unified church grows collectively then numerically.”

We collectively come together at N.W.C.C. by these **W.O.R.D.S.:**

- **Workmanship** – we use our **gifts** to serve in ministry
- **Outreach** – we **go** fishing for people in the world with the **gospel**
- **Relationship** – we are part of a **group** to bond
- **Discipleship** – we **grow** by accountability
- **Stewardship** – we **generously** share our tithes/offerings/first fruits

Study Questions:

1. What does Jesus' prayer for unity mean for His Body?

Reference: St. John 17:20-23

2. What does unity look like in the Body of Christ?

References: I Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:11-13

3. What does fellowship look like in the Body of Christ?

References: Acts 4:32; Philippians 2:2-3; Romans 14:19

4. What does accountability look like in the Body of Christ?

References: Romans 14:12; James 5:16; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 13:17; Hebrews 10:25

5. What are the blessings that come from unity?

References: Psalms 133; Ephesians 4:11-16

Actions to take: How will you walk in humility in the Body of Christ?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Verse to Ponder: Psalms 133:1. How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

