



## Choose Oneness

### Don't confuse Oneness with Unity!

People often use these two words interchangeably. However, from a Biblical and spiritual perspective, the difference is significant.

**Unity:** Unity can be understood using the following temporal example: a bunch of boys get together and agree to meet for the purpose of practicing their soccer skills; and they actually carry out of that plan.

**Oneness:** Oneness, if we take the above example, would look like the following. These boys want to take their game to the next level. They decide they need a coach. They agree on a person and contact him, and he agrees to be their coach, and most importantly, they agree to come under his leadership, no questions asked.

### What does the Bible say about these two concepts?

The word, "unity", only appears in scripture (KJV) 3 times; Once in the Old Testament and twice in the New Testament. The Old Testament passage (Ps 133:1) speaks of a coming together united. The two New Testament passages are translated "unity" in the NKJV. However, their actual meaning is "oneness". Both of those passages (Eph 4:3 and 4:13) refer to unity (actually oneness) in a spiritual context; in "the Spirit in the bond of peace", and "of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. It is clear from these uses that oneness has a vertical or heavenly perspective, unto the Lord as Creator God over all, and unity refers to the temporal coming together of men for agreed upon purposes.

## Why is the understanding of these differences important?

Simply put, “unity” can be, and most often is, humanistic by its very nature. Unless the subject parties go beyond the required unified mindset that brings them together initially, and actually seek the Lord together unto oneness, then humanism, regardless of how good it may look, will be the outcome.

Even when we intentionally follow God, we often end up with humanistic results. Peter is a perfect example of this. In Mark 8, Jesus is sharing with the disciples how He must suffer many things. Peter, with the best of human intentions, attempts to correct Jesus. Jesus responds, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." (Mark 8:33) Peter had yet to experience the oneness that Christ prayed for so earnestly, just before His Gethsemane agony. (John 17:22)

A recent vision highlights the importance of walking in oneness with Jesus, the Father and Holy Spirit. The vision indicated that even clinging tightly to Jesus is not oneness, but rather human effort to stay close. In John 17:21, Jesus asks the Father that we all could be “in” Him as He is “in” the Father; a significant difference from being “attached to” or following Him.

When we are “In Him”:

- We see through His eyes.
- Our heart beats with His heart,
- Our hands touch with His hands,
- Our feet walk with His feet,
- Our speech flows with His words,
- Our thoughts are wedded to the mind of Christ.

Only Christ “in” us, the hope of Glory, can draw us into the Glory of us being “in” Him; the whole purpose of Him indwelling us; to get us home to our “One” place of eternal belonging.

Going forward, you can choose to be in unity with people on a human level or choose to align with others as ONE in Jesus. Make a choice now to step into oneness with Jesus so that you can be ONE with other believers. Let your thoughts be melded with the mind of Christ so that you can begin to see as Jesus sees others, to speak as Jesus would speak, to do as Jesus would do.