



**METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY**  
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES  
For the week of July 8 – July 14, 2017  
Lesson #3 of **“The Gospel in Galatians”**



## **The Unity of the Gospel**

**Memory Text:** *“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”* ([Philippians 2:2 KJV](#)).

### **Read and Meditate for This Week’s Study:**

*Galatians 2:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Genesis 17:1-21; John 8:31-36;  
Colossians 3:11; Romans 3:1-2; Romans 4:8-12; Acts 11:1-18*

**Main Thought for the Week:** There is only one true Gospel of Jesus Christ, and it encompasses every believer, regardless of our backgrounds, upbringing, societal status, and experiences. We will take a look at how important unity is in the body of Christ, and how it compares with the importance of truth. Conflicts have been a part of God’s church since its inception, but the Bible provides solutions and guidance for how we may obtain and retain unity, despite dealing with challenges and conflict.



## **The Importance of Unity**

### **Sunday's Summary – July 9:**

1. How important did the Apostle Paul consider the issue of church unity?

(1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Which is more important: Unity or Truth? (John 17:17, 20-22) \_\_\_\_\_

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**ILLUMINATION:** The prayer of Christ just before His crucifixion was that His disciples might be one as He is one with the Father, that the world might believe that God had sent Him. This touching prayer reaches down the ages, even to our day. **While we are not to sacrifice one principle of truth, it should be our constant aim to reach this state of unity.** Said Jesus, "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35. – Ellen G. White, **From Eternity Past**, p. 372

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Circumcision and the False Brothers**

### **Monday's Summary – July 10:**

1. What was it about circumcision that created such conflict in the early Christian church? (Acts 7:8; Acts 21:20-22; Galatians 5:6) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What is the significance of circumcision to the Christian? (Romans 2:25-29; Galatians 6:15; 1 Corinthians 7:19) \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUMMARY THOUGHTS:** It is important that we not confuse symbols or shadows with substance. Traditions are not inherently wrong, unless they obscure the view of that which they should be pointing to. When the shadow takes the place of the substance, we are essentially practicing idolatry - a clear violation of God's moral law.

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## Unity in Diversity

### Tuesday's Summary – July 11:

**SUMMARY THOUGHTS:** “Diversity” and “differences” are similar terms but they do not convey exactly the same idea. “Diversity” conveys a sense of harmony or co-existence, whereas “differences” can also imply conflict or tension. Which explains why no one says, “Unity in Differences”.

1. In what major way do we see unity in diversity manifested as God's people?  
(1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 4:11-12) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. For what purpose has God employed this diversity? (1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 4:12-16)

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**Discuss/Consider:** Unity does not require that everything be identical; but it also does not require that everything be unique. What Biblical examples of unity do we see that encourage sameness, vs examples of unity that emphasize or celebrate diversity?

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**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Confrontation in Antioch**

### **Wednesday's Summary – July 12:**

1. What led Paul to confront Peter at Antioch? (Galatians 2:11-13) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Of all the folks involved, why was it Peter that Paul approached? (Acts 11:15-18)

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**Discuss/Consider:** How easy is it for even those who know better to lapse into wrong courses of action, and possibly influence others to do likewise? How can we be on guard against that? \_\_\_\_\_

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**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Paul's Concern**

### **Thursday's Summary – July 13:**

1. What was Paul seeking to address by this confrontation? (**Galatians 2:11-14**)

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2. How was the truth of the gospel impacted by what the Jewish Christians were doing in their interaction with the Gentile Christians? (**Colossians 3:11; Galatians 2:13-14**)

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**ILLUMINATION:** When Peter, at a later date, visited Antioch, he won the confidence of many by his prudent conduct toward the Gentile converts. For a time he acted in accordance with the light given from heaven. He so far overcame his natural prejudice as to sit at table with the Gentile converts. But when certain Jews who were zealous for the ceremonial law, came from Jerusalem, Peter injudiciously changed his deportment toward the converts from paganism. A number of the Jews “dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.” This revelation of weakness on the part of those who had been respected and loved as leaders, left a most painful impression on the minds of the Gentile believers. The church was threatened with division. But Paul, who saw the subverting influence of the wrong done to the church through the double part acted by Peter, openly rebuked him for thus disguising his true sentiments. In the presence of the church, Paul inquired of Peter, “If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?” Galatians 2:13, 14.

– Ellen G. White, **Acts of the Apostles**, p. 197



## **Wrapping It All Up...**

### **Friday's Summary – July 14:**

**ILLUMINATION:** Peter saw the error into which he had fallen, and immediately set about repairing the evil that had been wrought, so far as was in his power. God, who knows the end from the beginning, permitted Peter to reveal this weakness of character in order that the tried apostle might see that there was nothing in himself whereof he might boast. Even the best of men, if left to themselves, will err in judgment. God also saw that in time to come some would be so deluded as to claim for Peter and his pretended successors the exalted prerogatives that belong to God alone. And this record of the apostle's weakness was to remain as a proof of his fallibility and of the fact that he stood in no way above the level of the other apostles.

– Ellen G. White, **Acts of the Apostles**, p. 198

**Appeal:** We are told that “even the best of men, if left to themselves, will err in judgment.” We encourage each and every one of our listeners to take some time each day during your personal devotions to ask God to grant you wisdom by His Spirit, that you will always walk uprightly and neither lead others into hypocrisy or follow others into hypocrisy.

**Final Thoughts:** At Metro New York World Ministry, we are committed to the living in harmony with the gospel that we preach and teach. While we recognize that cultural and societal pressures pull on us each and every day, we know that God promises to give us grace and wisdom and strength, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live in accordance with His Word. Knowing that the Spirit has dispensed different gifts to the church for the edifying of the body of Christ, we endeavor to work together in truth for the perfection of the saints and the edifying of the body. As we each seek oneness with God, we will automatically have oneness with each other. (**John 17:17-23**).

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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