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THE SEVEN UNITIES THAT WILL
MATURE THE CHURCH
(Con't)

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This principle of one God and Father is the fundamental ground of unity. Would He divide His church? "Above all", this relates to His supreme rulership over all, as ruler in the universe.

"Through all", relating to His indwelling which is spoken of in Eph. 2:22, "In whom ye also are built together for a habitation of God through the Spirit", in all the church. Then in an individual indwelling as in Eph. 3:17, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith: that ye being rooted and grounded in love", is fulfilled in the term, "and in you all" relates to the same principles of indwelling, a personal indwelling. The acceptance of these foundation principles will produce unity, but men, and devils have prevented the inner interpretation of these seven unities and have brought division into the church.

THE UNITY OF THE ASCENSION GIFTS

Verses 7-8, "But unto everyone of us is given grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore, he saith. When he ascended up on high, he led, captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men". "Doma", means that which is given men.

"Unto everyone of us." It is to be noticed that Paul as he has been teaching about the church as a whole, he now passes to its individual members.

In the general unity, the individual is not overlooked, and unity is consistent with the variety of gifts and ministries. The spiritual gifts and ministries supply the needs of the individual members in the unified church.

The ministries produce other ministries, that keep together the unity of the whole Body of Christ. And each member functions in a definite place in the Body of Christ for the very purpose of producing the unity of the whole.

This principle is clearly shown in the next stage of unity mentioned in this section of scripture.

THE UNITY OF THE MINISTRIES AND THEIR PURPOSE
FOR UNITY IN THE BODY

Verse 11, "And he gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some pastors, and teachers". In our study of these ministries, with what is also mentioned in Rom. 12:8, "exhorters, shewers of mercy and givers". We see that each ministry fulfills a definite place in the Body. And is placed in the Body to fulfill a definite purpose; and all ministering together in their several abilities, they will produce a unity in the one body.

If they do not, and are not, it is because man-made or devil made teaching have destroyed their purpose in the Body of Christ.

THE PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

The principles that these ministries should produce in the Body of Christ to maintain its unity. If any member of the One Body, the Church, is not in his ministry producing these three principles. He has been misinformed or wrongly taught by some denominational system.

All he is producing in his ministry is division in the Body of Christ. For instead of producing a unity in the members for one Church, He is producing Pentecostals, Baptists, Methodist, Episcopalians, Catholics and so on.

In other words all he is doing is creating a division within the one Church, and his ministry is producing, a sect that God never ordained for His one Body.

The chief purpose for all the ministries is unity in one Body, as in verse 12, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ".

They are to build and instruct the Body of Christ into unity. The word "perfecting" means, to complete thoroughly, to adjust, repair, to join together. The word "ministry" refers to the ministry of the saints, they are to be taught how to minister. The word "edifying" speaks of the building of a structure, the making of a family, a home, a household. This should be the goal of every ministry relating to Eph. 4:11.

THE FOUR PRINCIPLES OF UNITY IN A MATURE BODY

The four principles of unity in a mature Body which these ministries produce, ministering according to Eph. 4:12: verse 13, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

"In the unity of the faith". Some Greek teachers try to teach that this faith relates to our faith in Christ, and not to principles of belief. But Strongs Concordance, relates to it as persuasion, conviction of religious truth or profession. It does then relate to the principles of what one believes. But those principles of what we believe are related to the second principle of unity.

"And the knowledge of the Son of God". This knowledge is then related to our faith and if faith is related to knowledge then it relates to principles of belief.

Our knowledge then, which is connected with the unity of the faith, is not just doctrinal knowledge alone, but is doctrinal knowledge that is in complete harmony with the power, and work, and history and glory of the Son of God.

In other words our doctrine must be in harmony with all Christ was and is, it must produce what He produced in the whole area of life, ministry, death, resurrection. With this principle in mind we could differentiate what is of men, or devil, and what is of God. It's not what our doctrine says, it's what it does.

"Unto a perfect man", or a spiritual mature man. This spiritual perfection would come when we come into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God. "Unto the measure of the fullness of Christ". This relates to spiritual maturity one follows the other; if I am spiritually mature, I will begin to enter into the measure of the fullness of Christ. This relates to the fact that the believer has grown up to the fullness of what Christ has determined for him in grace. The full capacity of what he is to be in the Body.

THE PROTECTION OF UNITY

Verse 14, "That we henceforth be no more children, babes, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning, craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive". "Doctrine", let us understand a principle, if it is doctrine that tosses believers to and fro, then it must be doctrine that matures the saint to the desired unity.

What is doctrine? It is the formation of scriptures which produces a theme of instruction from the scripture, II Tim. 3:16, "profitable for doctrine", and true doctrine, will reprove, correct, instruct us in righteousness, perfect us, finish us unto all good works.

God has doctrine; I Tim. 6:1, "That the name of God, and his doctrine". Christ has doctrine, II John, "abideth in the doctrine of Christ". Paul had doctrine, II Tim. 3:10, "Fully known my doctrine". He gave a commandment to Timothy to see that people taught it in I Tim. 1:3, "charge some that they teach no other doctrine".

Sound doctrine, I Tim. 1:10. Good doctrine, I Tim. 4:6. Doctrine according to godliness, I Tim. 6:3. Doctrines of devils, I Tim. 4:1, Doctrines of men, Col. 2:22.

DOCTRINES OF CERTAIN GROUPS

Rev. 2:14, of Balaam, Rev. 2:15, Nicolaitans. When saints are denied the principles of sound doctrine, which is not founded upon Christ, as in verse 13, and is not in harmony with all Christ is, or has done, or will do, they cannot mature.

The results are predicted, they will be carried about with every wind of doctrine, by deceiving men, seduced by evil spirits or intelltualism.

The church is full of religious philosophers and religious quacks and all have their followers, but no unity of the faith exists.

TRUE SPIRITUAL UNITY IN ALL THESE AREAS WILL PRODUCE GROWTH AND UNITY IN SPIRITUAL OPERATION

Verses 15, 16, "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, who is the head, even Christ. From whom the whole body fitly joined together, and compacted by that which every joint supplieth according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love".

Now we come to the final principle in regards to unity. In contrast to deliberate, planned systems of error that drive saints apart, we have truth being spoken in love. Truth that relates to Christ, as we have stated in verse 13. This truth will cement together the saints, and they will grow up into Him in all things who is the Head of the Body.

There are deliberate planned systems of error that try to bring the saints into a bondage of Satan, or man producing in them their principles. But truth spoken in love produces what is taught in verse 15.

Growing up into Him through truth will join the whole Body to-

gether, compacted together, every part suppling to the Body what it has been gifted with.

This individual suppling by compacted members, will make an increase in the Body and bring it into the oneness of unity, without the humanistic divisions, or Satanic divisions. Then Christ will be able to present it to himself, as in Eph. 5:25-27, "As Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water, by the Word. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish".

This statement of Eph. 5:25-27 relates to Jesus' statement in Matt. 16:18, "I will build my church" and John 10:16, "There shall be one fold, and one shepherd".

The sheep of the Lord are to be brought into one fold with one shepherd: completeness of unity. Denominationalism that divides the church, is then not God's plan for the church. It's not a principle of every man believing what he wants to believe. It's the principle of believing what God wants us to believe. End.



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OLD TESTAMENT PREDICTIONS
CONCERNING CHRIST
(Con't.)
By Dr. Albert Grimes



THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD

This relates to the regions in which the Lord would minister, Isa. 9:1-2, Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles".

Isaiah the Prophet points out that the very region where Assyrian armies, brought darkness and death, would be the first to rejoice in the light brought by the preaching of the Lord. This was fulfilled in Matt. 4:12-16, "And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum which is upon the sea coast in the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet saying, the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who sat in darkness saw great light, and to them who sat in the region and shadow of death, light is sprung up".

The ministry that Jesus was anointed to perform was also predicted by the same prophet Isaiah. Isa. 61:1-2, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives; and the opening of the prison to those who are bound. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord; and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all that mourn".

This was fulfilled in Luke 4:18, "and there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Moses himself predicted that God would raise up a prophet like unto himself, as in Deut. 18:15, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee, a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me, unto him ye shall hearken".

This was fulfilled in John 6:14, "Then those men, when they had

seen the miracle, that Jesus did said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world".

Then also in Acts 3:22, "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you, of your brethren, like unto me: him shall ye hear, in all things whatever he shall say unto you". (Peter said this)

HE WAS TO BE A PRIEST AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHEZEDEK

In Gen. 14:18, a brief history is given of Melchizedek, he was king of Salme, priest of the Most High God, had no recorded parents, no recorded date of birth or of death. A type therefore of the Messiah in His eternal priesthood, as stated in Psa. 110:4, "The Lord hath sworn and will not repent. Thou art a priest, forever after the order of Melchizedek".

This was fulfilled in Heb. 6:20, "Where the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek".

HE WAS REJECTED BY MEN AND HIS OWN PEOPLE

Isa. 53:3, "He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not". This was fulfilled in John 1:11, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not".

John 5:43, "I am come in my Fathers name, and ye received me not; if another shall come in his own name, him ye shall receive". Luke 4:29, "And rose up, and thruse him out of the city and led him unto the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong".

Then Jesus' own statement, in Luke 17:25, "But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected by this generation. Then finally in Luke 23:18, "And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabas".

HE OFFERED HIMSELF AS THEIR KING AND WAS REJECTED

Zec. 9:9, "Rejoice greatly O daughter of Zion; shout O daughter of Jerusalem; behold thy king cometh unto thee: he is just and having salvation; lowly and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt, the foal of an ass".

Then Isa. 62:11, "Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the earth. Say ye to the daughters of Zion. Behold thy salvation

cometh; behold his reward is with him, and his work before him".

This was fulfilled in John 12:13-14, "Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna. Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord". "And Jesus when he had found a young ass, sat upon it as it is written". Matt. 21:1-11.

HE WAS TO BE BETRAYED BY A FRIEND

Psa. 41:9, "Yea, mine own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me". This was fulfilled in Mark 14:10, "And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them".

HE WAS SOLD FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER

Zec. 11:12,13, "And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighted for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, cast it unto the potter a lordly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord".

This was fulfilled in Matt. 26: 15, "And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him."

End.



"GRADUATION"

What does Graduation mean? Graduation should be understood as the finish of a chapter, NOT THE CONCLUSION. In that sense, each one of us should be Graduates, not only those receiveing s diploma.

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches" John 15:5. Branches are for growing. Persons are for growing, and one way we grow is by learning. What about your growth?

Learning is for all Graduates, from those learning to crawl and walk, to those moving from tricycle, to bicycle, to car. To those dealing with serious issues of human living.

Let all Graduates always be growing and learning!"



"Crusader"

