

The Gravity of Unity

I. OUR MISSION _____.

II. THEIR PASSION

1) A decision _____.

2) A devotion _____.

3) A desire _____.

III. HIS VISION _____.

“Come, My Christian Friends and Brethren”

Come, my Christian friends and brethren,
Bound for Canaan’s happy land,
Come, unite and walk together,
Christ our leader gives command.
Lay aside your party spirit,
Wound your Christian friends no more,
All the name of Christ inherit,
Zion’s peace again restore.

We’ll not bind our brother’s conscience,
This to God alone is free,
Nor contend with one another,
But in Christ united be:
Here’s the Word, the grand criterion,
This shall all our doctrine prove,
Christ the centre of our union,
And the bond is Christian love.

Here my hand, my heart, my spirit,
Now in fellowship I give,
Now we’ll love and peace inherit,
Show the world how Christians live;
We are one in Christ our Savior,
Here is neither bond nor free,
Christ is all in all forever,
In His name we all agree.

Now we’ll preach and pray together,
Praise, give thanks, and shout and sing;
Now we’ll strengthen one another,
And adore our heavenly King;
Now we’ll join in sweet communion,
Round the table of our Lord;
Lord, confirm our Christian union,
By Thy Spirit and Thy Word.

Now the world we be constrained
To believe in Christ our King;
Thousands, millions be converted,
Round the earth His praises ring;
Blessed day! O joyful hour!
Praise the Lord – His name we bless;
Send Thy kingdom, Lord, with power,
Fill the world with righteousness.

Worth the Trip

I. IMPLICATION: _____.

II. OBSERVATION

1) Living in unity _____.

2) Living in unity _____.

III. APPLICATION

1) Tribal -- _____.

2) Trouble -- _____.

3) Travel -- _____.

Learning Division

I. WE MUST UNCOVER _____.

II. WE MIGHT DISCOVER . . .

1) A historical reason -

2) A theological reason –

3) A hermeneutical reason -

III. WE MAY RECOVER _____.

Silence Is Golden

I. WE MUST ADMIT ...

1) a relationship between _____.

2) a tension between _____.

3) a difference between _____.

II. WE MUST SUBMIT!

“Be of the same mind with one another”

“Accept one another”

III. WE MUST COMMIT ...

1) to the virtue _____.

2) to the value _____.

Only Jesus Only?

I. "JESUS MOSTLY ..."

1) is a _____.

2) is a _____.

II. "JESUS ONLY ..."

1) narrows my view _____.

2) broadens my view _____.

III. ONLY JESUS _____.

This was the clear message in the early days of our movement. For example, consider the words of Robert Richardson, and editor of the *Millennial Harbinger* and personal physician to Alexander Campbell. In 1852 he published a series of articles presenting the basic principles of what he called "the present reformation." He wrote:

We differ from all the parties here in one important particular, to which I wish to call your special attention. It is this: that while they suppose this Christian faith to be doctrinal, we regard it as personal. In other words, they suppose that doctrines, or religious tenets, to be the subject-matter of this faith; we, on the contrary, conceive it to terminate on a person - the LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF. While they, accordingly, require an elaborate confession from each convert - a confession mainly of a doctrinal and intellectual character, studiously elaborated into an extended formula - we demand only a simple confession of Christ - a heartfelt acknowledgement that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

The Christian faith, then, in our view, consists not in any theory or system of doctrine, but in a sincere belief in the person and the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Together Again
Rick Atchley and Bob Russell

No less than Alexander Campbell wrestled with this same issue in the "second reformation" of which he was a leading figure. This was his comment on the matter:

Should I find a Pedobaptist more intelligent in the Christian Scriptures, more spiritually-minded and more devoted to the Lord than a Baptist, or one immersed on a profession of the ancient faith, I could not hesitate a moment in giving the preference of my heart to him that loveth most. Did I act otherwise, I would be a pure sectarian, a Pharisee among Christians. Still I will be asked, how do I know that any one loves my Master but by his obedience to his commandments? I answer, in no other way. But mark, I do not substitute obedience to one commandment, for universal or even for general obedience. And should I see a sectarian Baptist or a Pedobaptist more spiritually-minded, more generally conformed to the requisitions of the Messiah, than one who precisely acquiesces with me in the theory or practice of immersion as I teach, doubtless the former rather than the latter, would have my cordial approbation and love as a Christian. So I judge, and so I feel. It is the image of Christ the Christian looks for and loves; and this does not consist in being exact in a few items, but in general devotion to the whole truth as far as known.

Millennial Harbinger
September 1837

Only Christians Only?

I. HERE'S OUR PLEA:

“We are Christians only . . .

. . . but not the only Christians.”

II. IF WE AGREE . . .

1) We will lift up _____.

2) We will reach out
_____.

III. TIME TO SEE _____.

Only Scripture Only?

I. "SCRIPTURE ONLY" as a means _____.

II. "SCRIPTURE ONLY" means . . .

1) confidence _____.

2) insistence
_____.

3) reticence _____.

4) dependence
_____.

III. "SCRIPTURE ONLY" is a means _____.

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Together In Battle

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