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God's Formula For Unity NO. 1

Jesus prayed that ALL his followers might be ONE, even as he and God were ONE in RULE, John 17:20-21. Paul COMMANDED that "all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you", I Cor. 1:10. Then if Jesus prayed to God for unity among his followers and Paul commanded it, surely God would expect just that! God WILL NOT command something which it is not possible for man to accomplish! So if God commands UNITY he must provide a formula, or plan, for this unity. Further it must be written in language that man can both, understand and obey. The reason there is NOT unity of religions in the world today is NOT because God did not give the formula, but because men do NOT respect the authority of God!

"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, even as you are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all", Eph. 4:3-6. THIS IS GOD'S FORMULA FOR UNITY! It is a simple matter of ALL speaking the SAME thing on the matter! When men follow God's plan, there shall be oneness, unity, respect for God's authority, and ALL will then believe that God sent Jesus! When men show disrespect for this plan, then the result is division and confusion! Division for the religious world and confusion for those who seek Christ! Any person knows that God is NOT the AUTHOR of confusion, I Cor. 14:33. When those who CLAIM to be teachers speak and teach CONFLICTING doctrines, it is SURE that all do not speak FOR GOD! It is possible that none do, but positive that where two, even, preach conflicting doctrines that BOTH CAN NOT SPEAK FOR GOD!

In the formula for unity, let us first find where there is unity and then try to determine why there is not unity in ALL.

ONE GOD

ALL of the so called christian people believe there is ONLY one God. There is NO division, or confusion on this point. WHY? The answer is simple. The

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Inherent Intelligence

The word "inherent" means, involved in the constitution or essential character of something. It also means by certain acts and conduct of a person that they may or can be a little above the average person in some places that are very important to mankind as to his eternal destiny.

The word "Intelligence" means, the capacity to apprehend facts and proposals and their relations and are able to reason about them. The ability to exercise the basic eternal quality of the divine mind; having or indicating a high degree of mental capacity; revealing or reflecting good judgement or sound thought.

With these two definitions in mind, let us consider the relationship between the governing of the Lord's Church and the civil organizations way of governing. Some people think and believe that the Church should be governed by the same rules and standards as any other civil organization.

In First Timothy; 3:1 thru 7; Titus, 1,5, thru 9: we find the qualifications for Elders of the Lord's Church. From these qualifications there are several things that we can deduce or assume, such as;

(1). A man will have reached some degree or status of education, if he is apt to teach.

(2). A man will have reached some degree of wisdom, if he knows how to oversee the House of God.

(3). A man will have reached some degree of stability; physical, mental, calmness, and emotional.

(4). He will have had some success in some occupation, profession or business, if he is able to provide for a family, know right from wrong, be able to observe and point out false doctrine.

With the new testament as our authority, it is evident that the Lord intended for a plurality of Elders (men) to oversee each congregation Acts 14,23; Acts; 11,30; Acts 15,2; Philippians, 1,1; as well as other scriptures including the scriptures given above from Timothy and Titus.

Worldly or civil organizations have drawn up certain rules, laws and bylaws to be used to govern their working order. The business of this kind of organization is executed by "majority rule" system.

The 'Robert's rule' of order is used as a guide, which we think is right. In this process of democratic order, a motion is made and seconded, discussed and then voted upon. The majority rules or sets in

effect whatever has been voted upon.

Two statement: Number one: The Lord ordained that a plurality of men oversee or guide a local congregation of the Lord's people; thus each member does not have the same authority in the organizational structure of the Church.

Number two: Each member of a civil organization, where the majority rules, has the same voting power.

Now by contrast: What is the wisdom of the Eldership over the civil organization? Because of the qualifications that a man must have before he is an Elder, there must be "Inherent" in these men, some wisdom that is more favorable to the Lord than the majority rule system. As much as is humanly possible, there is a safe guard in men who possess these qualifications that would not be in men that are appointed or elected to some civil office. Men are sometimes elected or appointed to some civil office or governing body of some organization because of wealth, political power or pressure, and not because of qualification. If other words, ELDERS MUST possess said biblical qualifications in order to be in harmony with the commandments of New Testament authority. The Bible DOES NOT say, or even infer or give lee-way of a man saying, "If you want me, I will take the highest office on earth, that of an Elder". It says: if a man desire the office of a Bishop (Elder): thus, a man must desire and have the Biblical qualifications and retain said desire and qualifications to be an Elder.

It seems to be the thinking of some people to operate by the majority rule is better than the thinking of God to rule and govern the Church with men that meet the qualifications set forth. Nowhere is there any scriptural comparison between the Lord's Church and our civil organizations. Many members of the Church try to compare the two bodies so it is evident that these people do not have the Inherent Intelligence of those that are qualified as the Bible directs.

Some claim that if it pays to advertise in business, it pays to advertise the Church. This may be expedient but it cannot be taught as scriptural premise or proof.

In the mind of many members of the Church there is a apparent contradiction,

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EDITORS: Erwin Cowen
and James E. Henley.

God's Formula (Cont.)

Scriptures given so state that there is ONE GOD! When ALL speak as the word of God speaks, teach as the word teaches, believe the word, then ALL WILL say that there is ONE GOD! SIMPLE INDEED! To this I am happy to agree.

ONE LORD

Again there is agreement among so called christian religions on this point. BUT AGAIN, WHY? The reason can be found in the Scriptures given. This I am happy to admit, accept, believe and teach. So long then as ALL speak the SAME thing, the word of God, there shall be UNITY on this point for the Bible teaches that there is ONE Lord!

ONE SPIRIT

There is general agreement among most religious bodies that there is ONE spirit, but much confusion among false teachers concerning HOW the Spirit works in the hearts of sinners to save them; also as to miraculous powers given to those who believe. The Bible, of course, teaches that the Holy Spirit was sent by Christ to guide the apostles to preach the Gospel of Christ to a lost world, then written that we might have it today, John 14:26, John 16:13. He was to confirm the word, and did! So the miracles that these men did, CONFIRMED the word (Mark 16:20), and it needs no further confirmation today, Heb. 2:1-4. So as the Bible teaches that there is ONE Spirit, we can safely believe that there is one Spirit! If all will speak the same thing, what the Bible teaches, on EVERY matter there WOULD BE UNITY AND ONLY UNITY! So it is a simple matter of respecting, and teaching what the Bible teaches, no more and no less, on every Bible subject! Does this sound unreasonable? Surely NOT!

Glynn Purdy

The Power of Prayer

Dearly Beloved;

By your effectual, fervent, prayers the dedicated support and encouragement of faithful brethren and the blessings of a merciful, loving, forgiving, Heavenly Father we have made it to this good point in our effort to save lost souls and relieve suffering humanity among the teeming millions of India.

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much in its workings" Jas. 5:16B. Brethren I believe the above statement from the bottom of my heart. I believe prayer is important, I believe prayer solves problems, I believe I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me, especially if I have enough Brethren praying for me. I believe the fervent prayer of 1,000 dedicated, soul loving, God fearing, Christians can make the greatest contribution to solving the many problems of India. In fact I would much rather have these prayers than to have the financial support of the richest family in the brotherhood or the largest bank in America. This is the reason I challenge you, my brethren, pray often, pray earnestly, pray fervently, pray believing, nothing doubting, I beg you, brethren, continue to pray. I would like to hear from 1,000 of you who said you were praying for me and for the program.

If you already have a prayer list add us on to that list. If you do not have a prayer list start one and enjoy the thrill of seeing the Lord answer your prayers one by one. Study your prayers and pray regular, often, and fervently. In the case of the program among the teeming millions of India there are so many different things that need to be prayed for. May I suggest a list. 1) Pray for me, "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: that you may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not the faith" II Thess. 3:1-2. 2) Pray for our contributors that they may share in this and many other good programs. 3) Pray for our workers the ones in India that they may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 4) Pray for our missionaries that they have strength, that they may have courage, that they may have understanding, that they may have love and determination, and that they may carry on under the adverse conditions presented by many foreign fields. 5) Pray for our Christian Schools, especially those in India where we are trying to teach people how to carry on the work of the Lord without the help and assistance, or leadership, direction of

foreigners. 6) Pray for our hostels and orphanages, our children that they may have good health, that they may learn much about the work of the Lord as they spend their time in these hostels that they may grow up and become strong stalwart servants in the Kingdom of our Master, that they may develop the ability to become great leaders among their people and that India may, through them, become a Godly nation. 7) Pray for our medical centers, for those in charge that they may make the greatest contribution possible to relieving the suffering humanity and to giving those people the sense of understanding the need of being relieved from that terrible disease of sin. 8) Pray for our leper clinic, the surgery that is being done there in rehabilitating lepers. 9) Pray for the medical treatment that is being given for this dreadful disease that they may also have an influence that will arrest that dreadful disease of sin. 10) Pray for our brethren everywhere, Oh, Lord, there are so many things to be done. So many brethren among us who need to be doing more. Pray for them, pray fervently. 11) Pray for Government officials those in America that we may inact such laws that we will have a free country and those throughout the world that they may pass laws that will make it possible to preach the gospel of Jesus all over the world. 12) Pray for those in India that they may lead the nation in the direction that will contribute to making it a christian nation, that they may flee from the shackles of Communism and those who would make them captive. Pray for the Church everywhere that it may grow and prosper, even those little prayer shed congregations in India, that they may develop leadership that will take the story of Jesus to the people in their communities and throughout the world. 13) Pray for the elders, deacons, the ministers, and the leaders of your congregation, and of other congregations throughout the world. May they so lead, direct, instruct, and develop programs that the borders of the kingdom may be enlarged. 14) Pray for our advisors that as we study and plan and develop programs of service that they may render the most good possible. 15) Pray for our enemies if we have any, our adversaries, our critics those who would destroy our program. Those who would close our hostels, those who would shut down our Christian Schools, those who would prevent us from preaching the soul saving story of salvation. Pray for them, may they see the light. Pray for all those who are working in the great mission field of India, Brother Bailey, Brother Johnson, strengthen them in those things that are right, discourage them in those things that are wrong, bring them to an even greater service to thee. Pray for unity that we may all work together with

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INHERENT INTELLIGENCE (cont.)

in that the Church should be governed by the democratic process. These people have not studied the scriptures enough or have been used to having their say in civil matters and think there is some carry over value that should be in the Church. This type of reasoning cannot be established as a Bible truth.

There is a vast difference in the Elders delegating authority to preachers, zone leaders, deacons, educational directors, or other members than that of operating by majority rule. Elders must use extreme caution in delegating authority and see that this authority is not abused. Example: A committee with the wrong motives could usurp authority over the Elders by working among members to spread discord, disunity, or other forms of concupiscence or emulation.

To some extent, the Eldership may seem dictatorial, at least to some people. This is offensive to most people but mostly to those that wish to have a say in all the affairs and business for the Church but cannot qualify for that honored position. For this reason, the wisdom of God is far superior to that of man. This is one of the necessary "Strong Arms" of discipline the Elders have. It takes a great deal of backbone, courage, and knowledge of God's word to execute Church discipline. Here again is one of the qualifications for the men that serve as Elders for the Church that Christ established for the redemption of mankind. A discipline problem of a civil nature is executed by the democratic process.

In our civil organizations, it is necessary to have a certain number present before business can be transacted. In the Church, a business meeting of the men serves as a feeler or guide of the attitude for the Elders as they may wish to present certain problems concerning the work. The Elders still have the final decision regardless of the problem or business at hand.

In civil areas, many times, men or women are appointed or elected to an office or position to fulfill certain functions. In the Church, MEN, not women are appointed to the Eldership. 1st. Cor. 11, 3: 1st. Cor. 14, 34: 1st. Timothy, 2, 12: and others.

Generally, unqualified men are not appointed or elected to fill the office of a civil organization but sometimes they are. Qualifications are the purpose to eliminate unqualified men for the Eldership. Occasionally, men that are not qualified are appointed to the Eldership, but that is not God's fault, it is the fault of man. It is especially the fault of the man that takes the appointment. If a man does not know if he is qualified or not, it stands to reason that he is not mature enough in the Doctrine and does not have the "Inherent Intelligence" intended for

"I Am Writing This, So That. . ."

By
Steve Williams

A man recently told me of a statement made by a friend of his, and questioned me about it. The friend in essence said, "None of us can be perfect, so why worry about a few more sins? Besides I am already saved." At least this man was honest. Many people have this attitude, but they will not admit it.

This whole problem is focused upon the impossible goal of perfections (impossible for man alone¹). But did not Jesus say, "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."² Yes, but "perfect" there does not mean sinless. From Greek we can see that it means complete, whole ended, or mature.³ Since we are not able to refrain from all sin, does this sanction a little extra sin? After all, we are saved by grace.⁴ Apparently the stranger thinks so.

I answered his inquiry in this way. "Does an archer always aim for the third or fourth ring? Of course not! He will get a better score if he tries to hit bull'seyes even though he will not always hit it. Does a football team always try for just a field goal? Does a bowler only try for spares, never wanting a strike?" From this we can see what our attitude

toward sin must be. The best servant for the Lord will be the one who tries his best to abstain from sin.

Perhaps the apostle John answered this question even better than Paul.⁵ He said, "No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him...No one born of God commits sin; for God's nature abides in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God."⁶ This does not mean that it is impossible for a christian to sin. It means we will not willfully desire to sin. An analogy would be this statement: "He cannot drink, because he is a football player."

Now one can see how the apostle John explodes the myth the strange lived by. It is not a matter completely of achievement, but rather one of what ideal are we striving for. What is our goal? Are we trying to obtain heaven and enjoy sin too? Just because we cannot be sinless does not mean we can add a few willful sins to our sin list and still be forgiven. I wonder how many thousands of professed Christians live in this manner? In conclusion, "I am writing this to you, so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."⁷

1. Matthew 19:21-26
2. Mattew 5:48
3. See James 1:4
4. Ephesians 2:5 8-9
5. Romans 6:1-2
6. I John 3:6, 9
7. I John 2:1

him to have. If a man accepts the office, health, family, or any inability that may beset him; he should resign this position with an explanation to the congregation. This man, by resigning, would releave himself of the burden that he cannot scripturally carry and set the congregation at ease: there by retaining their respect, love, and admiration for being honest, sincere, and loyal to the cause of Christ.

There are many good principles that may be used from the democratic process but it should always be kept in mind the distinction between the secular and the divine. The government of the Lord's Church is divine; therefore it is superior to any civil government or majority rule organization. Of necessity, we must see the wisdom of God's divine arrangement and follow the New Testament Teachings.

Study to show thyself approved: study to know the right way: Live in a way we know from the Bible teachings: If these things are done, there would be no argument about which way the Lord's Church should be governed. There would be no trouble finding MEN that would qualify for the Eldership, Deacons, Teachers, Song Leaders and just plain Christians. Recognition of the proper authority is the first step in being any part of the Lord's Church.

Written by: Jason Y. Frizzelling

GIVE US MEN

Give us men to match our mountains;
Give us men to match our plains;
Men with empires in their purpose;
Men with throbbing, conquering brains.
Give us men to lead our nation;
Give us men with holy zeal;
Men aflame with truth and vision;
Men who bear the heavenly seal.
Give us men who love the Bible,
And its precepts do obey;
And are Christians all the way.
Give us men who follow Jesus;
Give us men who love their Lord;
Men with hearts pure and courageous;
Men led by God's Eternal Word.

Selected

The Changing Scene

We live in a segment of history that is moving torrentially. Explosive tensions cram every hour. Through our vast communications media we have become eyewitnesses to the crumbling of many nations, some of which are uncomfortably close to our own shores. How sad it is to note that the United States has encouraged the decline of many countries by its example. It appears that it is now time for us to reap what we have sown (Galatians 6:7,8), for we are plagued with the same thing that has brought several other countries low-internal strife. Do you often wonder how we in America, with our claim to such great intellectual power and being the dynamo of democracy, ever got into the state of frustration and perplexity such as we find ourselves in today? Well, it is not due so much to political and social causes as it is to the disintegration of righteousness. Listen to the wise counsel of Solomon:

“Righteousness exalteth a nation:
but sin is a reproach to any people.”

History is but a perpetual illustration proving him right. No country has prospered long that has forsaken the path of national righteousness. When pride and vanity, coupled with greed and cruelty, have been in the ascendant in any society, the hour of humbling was not far away. When the will of God has been honored, they have prospered. What better illustration could be offered than Israel of old? As one man has said, “Israel is the pillar of salt to all nations, crying to all people, ‘Remember!’ ” Do we?

The dangers that face us from within are breath-taking. Screams of hate and threats of violence fall like karate chops upon our ears. The conflicts tearing at the roots of things holy and sacred are posing the most revolutionary crises in our history. Young rebels, black militants, movie stars greedy for continued popularity, older people trying to act “hep”(looking ridiculous all the while as they strut in their mod attire, and becoming even more preposterous with their meaningless grunts of hippie jargon, both glaring signs of immaturity!), and communists are making an all-out effort to bleach out the deep effect that Christianity has had with a missionary passion. The startling fact is that their propaganda is effective and telling for many are following their pernicious and subversive ways! Profound changes and deep shifts are afoot for it has been the Christian concept of law and order, moral standards, and the liberty of the soul of man that has fostered the cultural,

The Power of Prayer (Cont.)

all lowliness and meekness with long suffering forbearing one another in love. Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace realizing there is “one body, one spirit, even as you are called in the hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.” Eph. 4:4-6. Yes, brethren, pray that all of us working together may use whatever abilities we may have in seeking out those avenues of service that will make the greatest contribution possible to saving lost souls and relieving suffering humanity. Pray earnestly, pray fervently, pray regularly, pray often, pray in tears, pray in love, and with those prayers the work in India will grow and become a great glory and honor to the God we serve. Again I say, may the blessings of Numbers 6:24-26 be with you and yours always in all good things.

With much Christian love,
Everett R. Anderson

spiritual, and economic orders of America which they, too, have enjoyed.

News commentators, reporters, psychologists, educators, and government officials are scurrying about trying to find the reasons for the social and political unrest about us. They want to know what lies behind the war in Vietnam, rioting in the streets and on the campuses, the breakdown of our judicial system, the rise of moral degeneracy, and the drug addiction that besets us. These investigators, labeled experts, are looking everywhere but the right place for the solution to these ills. The SIMPLE answer to our problem is given by Paul in Romans 3:18. Listen to him!

“There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Yes, too many in our great land have lost their reverence for God and are bowing before the feet of man, offering vain oblations upon the altar of intellectualism. (Romans 1:25) An alarming number deliberately reject Him, displaying open contempt for His majesty and authority. But I still remains true that “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of the knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Who is responsible for this hour of distress? None other than Satan! He is behind this gigantic attempt to dethrone Christianity. His work is made easier because he has convinced many that it is unfashionable to believe in him. Christian, do not underestimate the power of the Evil One. Woe be unto us if we do!

Jim West

Go and Beat Your Wife

Being peeved at the brethren and forsaking the Lord is about as logical as being angry with the dog and kicking the cat. A preacher once asked a certain man why he had ceased to attend church. He replied, “They haven’t treated me right over there.” “Then, why don’t you go and beat your wife?” asked the minister. The startled man gave the preacher a look which questioned his sanity. “My wife hasn’t done anything against me” he said. “Well, has the Lord Jesus done anything against you?”

When you see a man or woman forsaking the worship assembly because of something that has been said or done, there is something wrong with that person. Deep down in his heart he usually knows it, but simply hasn’t the faith to follow God and let Him lead the way. Let’s be honest about it. If you have quit. There’s something wrong with your relationship to Christ. It is your soul that is being separated from Christ and there should be nothing allowed to come between you and your Savior. Don’t kick the cat! Don’t beat your wife! Don’t quit the Lord!

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