

# IS THIS UNITY?

By Keith Greer

The apostle Paul told the Ephesians that "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." {Ephesians 4:1-3} Unity is a constant source of discussion among brethren, but how is it achieved?

While I was in Las Vegas, one of the local preachers conducted a "**harvest gospel meeting**." In this meeting that preacher promised to deal with the issues "**which divides the churches of Christ in our city**." Another brother and I decided to attend. What did he speak about? Social gospel? Fellowship Halls? Instrumental Music? Boston Movement? Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage? He spoke about love, forgiveness, and being one in Christ. My brother did not live up to his promise!

He began by quoting 1 Corinthians 12:12-14. The point he made was that we are all members of the universal body of Christ. This we agree upon. He further stated, Ephesians 1:22,23, we had only one head – Christ. He did read Ephesians 4:1-7, yet, never discussed the "**one faith**." Wonder why? His main point, "**love is the foundation that unity can be built upon**." The Bible clearly teaches this to be so. John 13:34,35; 1 John 4:1-8. He also talked about God hating division. Again, I'm in total agreement. 1 Corinthians 1:10.

Sadly, my brother left out one important point. **TRUTH!** "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" {John 17:17} "If you love Me, keep My commandments." {John 14:15} Unity is impossible if it is not based on a **THUS SAITH THE LORD!** Truth is why the churches of Christ were divided in Las Vegas and that is why some are divided here in central Kentucky. If Christians really want peace and unity in any city it can only be achieved by all **following the same pattern**. Please read 1 Peter 4:11. Unity is the hope of all true members of the body of Christ. Yet, having love for one another and being under one roof is not **BIBLE UNITY**. All agreeing we need to practice love, that Christ is the head of the church, is not enough for true unity. **Unity and truth** go together! \*\*\*