

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK
Ed & Annita Hoagland

1. PRAISE - Even though we can only have 30% of our capacity, at our main church we have two services every Sunday, one on Wednesdays, and one on Saturdays, and we're beginning to see visitors show up. Just this last Sunday, God saved 7 people. Praise the Lord! We had 2 baptisms at our main church, 3 at our mission in Joquicingo, and planning on more this week.
2. PRAISE - We were able to organize our mission work in Galeana into a self-supporting autonomous local church! Praise the Lord!
3. PRAY - It has been a difficult six months with all the limitations the government has put on us! Please pray for fervency to continue our mission!

GROWTH GUIDE



Handout: 10/18/20
Study: 10/25/20

Stronger Together In Unity

Unity is not uniformity, nor is it sameness. Just as the Godhead is made up of three distinct Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—each unique in personhood and yet at the same time one in essence, unity reflects a oneness that does not negate individuality. Unity does not mean everyone needs to be like everyone else. God’s creative variety is replete displaying itself through a humanity crafted in different shapes, colors, and styles. Each of us, in one form or another, is unique. Unity occurs when we combine our unique differences together as we head toward a common goal. It is the sense that the thing that we are gathered for and moving toward is bigger than our own individual preferences.

Through the establishment of the church along with His over-arching rulership above it, God has created a reflection of His kingdom in heaven on earth. He has reconciled racially divided groups into one new man (Ephesians 2:14–15), uniting them into a new body (Ephesians 2:16) so that the church can function in unity (Ephesians 4:13). The church is the place where racial, gender, and class distinctions are no longer to be divisive because of our unity in Christ (Galatians 3:28). This does not negate differences that remain intact—oneness simply means that those differences are embraced. Joining our unique strengths together, we add strength to strength, making a more complete and balanced whole based on our mutual relationship with and commitment to Christ.

So important is the issue of oneness in the church that we are told to look out for people who seek to undermine it (Romans 16:17). In fact, God promised to judge those who divide His church (1 Corinthians 3:17). This is because the church is to reflect the values of the kingdom of God to a world in desperate need of experiencing Him.

When we got saved, we were baptized into the body of Christ. We are now identified with a new family, having been placed into a new spiritual environment while still on earth. No matter what our race, gender, or class, when we came to Jesus Christ we entered into God’s oneness because we came under His authority.

That is why Ephesians 4:3 says that we are to “preserve the unity of the Spirit.” The Scripture uses the term preserve, indicating that we don’t create unity. Authentic unity, then, cannot be mandated or manufactured. This is so because God desires that His standards alone serve as the basis, criteria, and foundation for oneness. It is also why He thwarts attempts at unity that ignore or exclude Him (Genesis 11:1–9). The Spirit created unity when we were saved. Our job is to find out what the Spirit has already done so that we can live, walk in, and embrace that reality.

Source: *Oneness Embraced* by Tony Evans

KEY VERSE

Ephesians 4:3 (NKJV)

endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 2:3-11; Colossians 3:12-13

Unity Requires Humility

1. Based on today's readings how do you describe humility?
2. How can your humility increase unity at Capital?

Tuesday: Ephesians 4:4-6; I Corinthians 12:13; Titus 2:1

Unity Requires Theology

3. How many times is the word "one" repeated in today's reading from Ephesians? Why do you think Paul is emphasizing that word?
4. How does the theology of our church impact our unity?

Wednesday: Ephesians 4:7-12; I Peter 4:10-11; Romans 12:6-8

Unity Requires Ministry

5. What ministry has God given to you?
6. Your ministry is important. Our church family needs you. How does your ministry edify the body of Christ?

Thursday: Ephesians 4:13-15; I Corinthians 3:3-4; 13:11

Unity Requires Maturity

7. List areas of your life where you are experiencing spiritual growth.
8. Your growth is vital to our church family. How has your spiritual growth impacted our church family?
9. Who is helping you grow to maturity? Who are you helping to grow to maturity?

Friday: Ephesians 4:16; I Corinthians 12:12-28

Unity Requires Everybody

10. Why is unity sometimes difficult? What are some obstacles you have experienced?
11. Today's readings compare our unity to the unity found in a body. What is your part of our Capital body? In what way do we all belong to one another?
12. What can you do to promote unity in our church?