

Message Five

The Factor of the Genuine One Accord

Hymns:

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:14; 2:46; 4:24; 5:12; 15:25; Rom. 15:6

- Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- Acts 2:46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart,
- Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted up their voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,
- Acts 5:12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders took place among the people; and they were all with one accord in the portico of Solomon.
- Acts 15:25 It seemed good to us, having become of one accord, to choose men to send to you together with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,
- Rom. 15:6 That with one accord you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I. The genuine one accord in the church is the practice of the oneness of the Body, which is the oneness of the Spirit—Eph. 4:3-6:

- Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace;
- Eph. 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph. 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph. 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

A. From Ephesians 4:4-6 we can see that our practice of the oneness is based upon the attribute of the oneness of the church: one Spirit, one Lord, one God, one Body, one faith, one baptism, and one hope.

- Eph. 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph. 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph. 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

B. The practice of the genuine one accord in the church is the application of the oneness—Acts 1:14; 2:46.

- Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- Acts 2:46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart,

C. The practice of the oneness is with the one accord; when the oneness is practiced, it becomes the one accord—15:25:

- Acts 15:25 It seemed good to us, having become of one accord, to choose men to send to you together with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

1. In John the Lord emphasized oneness, but in Acts the one accord is emphasized—John

10:30; 17:11, 21-23; Acts 1:14; 2:46; 4:24; 15:25.

- John 10:30 I and the Father are one.
- John 17:11 And I am no longer in the world; yet they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given to Me, that they may be one even as We are.
- John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
- John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
- John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.
- Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.
- Acts 2:46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart,
- Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted up their voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,
- Acts 15:25 It seemed good to us, having become of one accord, to choose men to send to you together with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

2. The landmark that divides the Gospels and the Acts is the one accord among the one hundred and twenty—1:14:

Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

a. They had become one in the Body, and in that oneness they continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer—Eph. 4:3-6; Acts 1:14.

Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

Eph. 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph. 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Eph. 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

b. When the apostles and the believers practiced the church life, they practiced it in one accord—2:46; 4:24; 5:12.

Acts 2:46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart,

Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted up their voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,

Acts 5:12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders took place among the people; and they were all with one accord in the portico of Solomon.

D. The one accord is the heart, the kernel, the nucleus, of the oneness—Eph. 4:3; Acts 4:24; Rom. 15:6:

Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

- Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted up their voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,
- Rom. 15:6 That with one accord you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Oneness is like the physical body, and one accord is like the heart within the body.
2. Our spiritual sickness is like a sickness in the heart within the body; the sickness among us is that we do not have the one accord adequately, and thus we maintain oneness with a sick “heart.”

II. The one accord refers to the harmony in our inner being, in our mind and will—Acts 1:14:

Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- A. In Acts 1:14 the Greek word *homothumadon* is used to signify the one accord:

Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

1. The word comes from *homo*, “same,” and *thumos*, “mind, will, purpose (soul, heart)” and denotes a harmony of inward feeling in one’s entire being.
2. We should be in the same mind and the same will with the same purpose around and within our soul and heart; this means that our entire being is involved.

- B. In Matthew 18:19 the Greek word *sumphoneo* is used to signify the one accord:

Matt. 18:19 Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens.

1. The word means “to be in harmony, or accord” and refers to the harmonious sound of musical instruments or voices.
2. The one accord, or the harmony of inward feeling among the believers, is like a harmonious melody.
3. When we have the one accord, we become a melody to God; we become a poem not merely in writing but in sound, in voice, in melody.

III. The holding factor of the one accord is the apostles’ teaching—Acts 2:42, 46:

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2:46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart,

- A. The practice of the oneness—the one accord—is according to the apostles’ teaching—v. 42.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.

- B. Acts tells us that there was one accord among the believers and that all those who were in one accord continued steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching.

- C. The apostles taught the same thing to all the saints in all the places and in all the churches—1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17; 11:16; 14:33b-34:

- 1 Cor. 4:17 Because of this I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, even as I teach everywhere in every church.
- 1 Cor. 7:17 However as the Lord has apportioned to each one, as God has called each one, so let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches.
- 1 Cor. 11:16 But if anyone seems to be contentious, we do not have such a custom of being so, neither the churches of God.
- 1 Cor. 14:33b As in all the churches of the saints,
- 1 Cor. 14:34 The women should be silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they should be subject, even as the law also says.
1. We must also teach the same thing in all the churches in every country throughout the earth—Matt. 28:19-20.

Matt. 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matt. 28:20 Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age.
 2. There is no thought in the New Testament that a teaching is good for one church but not for the other churches; rather, the New Testament reveals that all the churches were the same in receiving the teachings—Titus 1:9.

Titus 1:9 Holding to the faithful word, which is according to the teaching of the apostles, that he may be able both to exhort by the healthy teaching and to convict those who oppose.

IV. When we practice the one accord, we must learn to be in one spirit with one soul—Phil. 1:27:

- Phil. 1:27 Only, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, that whether coming and seeing you or being absent, I may hear of the things concerning you, that you stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving together along with the faith of the gospel,
- A. We need to turn to our spirit and then enter into our soul with one spirit that we may be in one accord—2:2, 5; 4:2.

Phil. 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

Phil. 4:2 I exhort Euodias, and I exhort Syntyche, to think the same thing in the Lord.
 - B. If we would have the factor of genuine one accord, we need to “be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion”—1 Cor. 1:10; 7:25, 40:

1 Cor. 1:10 Now I beseech you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion.

1 Cor. 7:25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who has been shown mercy by the Lord to be faithful.

1 Cor. 7:40 But she is more blessed if she so remains, according to my opinion; but I think that I also have the Spirit of God.
1. The problem in the local church life that keeps us from realizing the one accord is our opinion—Matt. 16:22-25; Phil. 2:2; 4:2.

Matt. 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!

- Matt. 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Matt. 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
- Phil. 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,
- Phil. 4:2 I exhort Euodias, and I exhort Syntyche, to think the same thing in the Lord.

2. In the Lord's work, in the church life, and in the spiritual life, the greatest damaging factor is our opinion—1 Cor. 1:10-13a.

- 1 Cor. 1:10 Now I beseech you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be attuned in the same mind and in the same opinion.
- 1 Cor. 1:11 For it has been made clear to me concerning you, my brothers, by those of the household of Chloe, that there are strifes among you.
- 1 Cor. 1:12 Now I mean this, that each of you says, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas, and I of Christ.
- 1 Cor. 1:13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized into the name of Paul?

3. Opinions are a sign of darkness (John 11:9-10); whenever we express an opinion that is contrary to the Lord's will, that opinion signifies that we are walking in darkness.

- John 11:9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.
- John 11:10 But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.

4. The Lord never acts on the basis of anyone's opinion; He always acts according to His own will, and He will never be moved according to our opinion, including a prayer according to our opinion—1 John 5:14-15.

- 1 John 5:14 And this is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
- 1 John 5:15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

C. To be in one accord is to be one in our whole being, and this results in our being one in our outward speaking—Rom. 15:5-6:

- Rom. 15:5 Now the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind toward one another according to Christ Jesus,
- Rom. 15:6 That with one accord you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. To have one mind and one mouth means that we have only one Head—Christ—because only the Head has a mind and a mouth; we should think with the mind of Christ and speak with the mouth of the Head—Col. 1:18a; Phil. 2:2, 5; 4:2.

- Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Phil. 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,
- Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
- Phil. 4:2 I exhort Euodias, and I exhort Syntyche, to think the same thing in the Lord.

2. Whenever we are in one accord, we speak the same thing; we speak with one mouth.
3. The only way to be with one accord and one mouth is to allow Christ the room to be everything in our heart and in our mouth that God may be glorified—Eph. 3:17a, 21.

Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph. 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.

V. The one accord is the master key to every blessing in the New Testament—Acts 1:14; Eph. 1:3; Rom. 15:29:

Acts 1:14 These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

Rom. 15:29 And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

- A. We need to treasure God’s blessing and realize that in the church life everything depends on God’s blessing—Eph. 1:3.

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

- B. We all want to see the churches receive God’s commanded blessing—Psa. 133:3.

Psa. 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

- C. In our practice of the church life, we need to know the way for the church to be under “the fullness of the blessing of Christ”—Rom. 15:29:

Rom. 15:29 And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

1. It is crucial for us to realize that God’s blessing can come only upon a situation of one accord, for God will bless only the one accord—Acts 2:46.

Acts 2:46 And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart,

2. In order to receive God’s blessing, we must practice the oneness, and the way to practice the oneness is by the one accord—4:24; 15:25; Rom. 15:6.

Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted up their voice with one accord to God and said, Sovereign Master, You are the One who has made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them,

Acts 15:25 It seemed good to us, having become of one accord, to choose men to send to you together with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

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