



John 17:20-23 (NKJV)

²⁰"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²²And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Introduction

What is Christian unity?

Christian unity is a shared life in Jesus Christ; is to be a witness of Jesus to the world; and is manifested through love, purpose, and mission.

A. Shared life in Jesus Christ (Born, Life & Death)

When Jesus prayed that those who believe in Him would be one, even as He and the Father are one, that prayer was answered when the Holy Spirit baptized all believers into the one body of Christ. Yet, Jesus also prayed that believers may be "perfected in unity" (v. 23), which implies a process of growth. So, it is like sanctification: We are positionally sanctified in Christ; yet we must grow in sanctification.

Similarly, apostle Paul said in Ephesians 4:3, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Since we are made alive in Christ through His Spirit through regeneration (Ephesians 2:1), we obviously have the same Spirit. So, having the same Spirit is already given, but being diligent in preserving unity is another.

Then, apostle Paul, after talking about the ministry of pastors and teachers who equip the saints for the work of ministry, added in Ephesians 4:13, "Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." This unity of the faith is not yet a reality but can be attained as we grow to maturity in Christ.

For easy recollection, let us call it "positional unity" (by His Spirit) and "practical unity" (a work in progress by every believer). Therefore, unity is two-fold – positional and practical.

v. 20 - "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

Christian unity is based on our common salvation in Jesus Christ. This is not about joining "ecumenical beliefs," who

promote cooperation and unity of inter-faith among different churches and denominations.

When Jesus prayed, "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours." He specifically mentioned "those whom You have given Me." He is praying specifically for those who believe in Him through the apostles' word. The apostles' word is already recorded in the New Testament, which is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, the new birth experience is the basis of our unity in Christ.

John 1:12-13

¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

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UCA UPDATE

FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES STARTS AT UCA MT. TABOR

As the Lord expands the educational ministry of United Christian Academy (UCA) at UCF Mt. Tabor Church, students from the nearby community were excited to attend their first face-to-face classes last Wednesday, July 8.

It is another milestone as UCA establishes its new branch, aiming to reach more people, support their educational needs, and serve as a gateway of evangelism to students and their families. All these things became possible through God's faithfulness and the vision He has given to His servant, Rev. Dr. William Sy. Praise God for another breakthrough of extending UCA to the nearby community of Cabuyao, Laguna.

Excited to meet their classmates and teacher, students were also eager to learn and have quality time with one another. Attending their first face-to-face classes in UCA Mt. Tabor made their learning more focused and interactive.



UCA UPDATE

INCULCATING GOOD VALUES AND POSITIVE CHARACTER

UCA encourages students to look after one another as one family, sharing the love of Christ to everyone. UCA students introduced the Character Badges wherein students can nominate their classmates and schoolmates who have exhibited good values and character. The first batch of students were awarded different character badges last July 6, Monday.

This concluded recognition reflects UCA's commitment to nurturing not just the mind, but the heart and character of every learner, raising young men and women who reflect Christ in all they do. A proud moment to the awardees that never cease to exhibit the spectrum of positive characters.

Congratulations to the first batch of Character Badge Awardees of United Christian Academy!

This program helps hone students' moral values as part of their holistic growth in UCA. Each student plays a vital role in making these character traits their everyday conduct everywhere they go, reflecting the love of Christ in their life.



UCA UPDATE

CELEBRATING THREE DECADES OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Volunteers for the upcoming 30th Anniversary of United Christian Academy (UCA) are dedicating their creativity and time to contribute and be part of one of the most awaited programs of UCA.

The foundation week will be jam-packed with activities and exciting programs where students will wear animal headdresses of their designated teams. While representing their animal groups, students are encouraged to have fun and join the special programs that suit their interests and talents.



Through this upcoming event, God's faithfulness to UCA is evident throughout the years. This is also reflected in the dedication of the volunteers who support the church's educational ministry and celebrate its every milestone.



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For more information, look for Ms. Sushmita Murillo (09454422543)

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Sabi sa Mga Awit 96:2, "Awitan natin si Yahweh, ngalan niya ay sambahin; araw-araw ang ginawang pagliligtas ay banggitin."

Sa dakilang pagkilos at pagsama ng Diyos sa UCF at sa inspirasyong nagmumula sa Kaniya ay nabuo ang mga awit ng papuri at pagsamba ay malikha ng Kaniyang mga lingkod. Mula dito ay umusbong ang isang ministeriyong maghahayag ng ebanghelyo —ang UCF Gospel Music.

Upang malawak pa ang maabot ng mga awiting ito, binisita nina Rev. Dr. William Sy at Rev. Dr. James Sy noong Hulyo 7 ang kalipunan ng mga pastor sa Bontoc Peninsula, Quezon Province na pinangangasiwaan ni Ptr. Joey Sarapat. Ang mga awit na ito ay isang pamamaraan ng Diyos upang ang Kaniyang Salita at Mabuting Balita ay maitanim sa puso ng Kaniyang mga anak.

Purihin ang Panginoon para sa pagbukas ng panibagong oportunidad upang ang Kaniyang ebanghelyo ay mapalaganap!

UCF UPDATE

Pagpapalawig ng mga awit ng Diyos



Malugod na ibinagi ng ating mga pastor ang UCF Gospel Music upang magamit din sa kanilang mga panambahan—mga awit na tunay na nagmula sa Diyos at ayon sa Kaniyang Salita. Buong pagtitiwala na marami pang kaluluwa ang mahihipo ng Diyos sa pamamagitan ng mga awiting ito.

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The Lord is Good 02
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UCFTS OPENING OF CLASS

Pagsasaliksik ng Kaniyang Salita

Sinasabi sa 2 Timoteo 3:16-17, "16Ang lahat ng Kasulatan ay kinasihan ng Diyos, at kapaki-pakinabang sa pagtuturo ng katotohanan, sa pagsaway sa kamalian, sa pagtutuwid sa likong gawain at sa pagsasanay para sa matuwid na pamumuhay, 17upang ang lingkod ng Diyos ay maging ganap at handa sa lahat ng mabubuting gawain."

Sa patuloy na pag-aaral at naising lumalim pa sa Salita ng Diyos, sinimulan na ang 1st at 2nd Sequence ng UCF Theological Seminary noong Hulyo 11, Sabado, sa UCF Sanctuary. Sa kanilang pag-aaral, ang Diyos ang Siyang magpapalago sa bawat isa upang magamit sa Kaniyang ubasan.

Salamat sa Panginoon sa Kaniyang Salita na nagsisilbing gabay ng Kaniyang mga anak!



Buong pagsisikap at kagalakang nag-aaral ang bawat manggagawa bilang paghahanda sa mas malaki pang paggamit ng Diyos sa pagpapalawig ng ebanghelyo sa mga nawawalang tupa.



Sa mga nagnanais na ring mag-aral ng Salita ng Diyos sa UCFTS, makipag-ugnayan kay Sis. Joan Sy.

United in Christ

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When we are born again and become children of God, we share in the divine nature (children of God).

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

v. 23 - I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Our unity in Christ is not only in being born but must also be in His life and death on the cross.

Romans 6:1-4

¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Have you experienced the love of God in Christ at the cross? That love is our common glory (victory over sin and death). It brings us

together into the one worldwide family of God. Our unity is based on our common salvation in Christ and our common glory in Christ.

B. Witness of Jesus to the world

Romans 10:14-15

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

The Bible shows us the written testimonies of different servants of God as inspired by the Holy Spirit, but the Bible alone cannot complete the great commission. The great commission was given to the disciples and in time, to us, the modern believers. We are commissioned to "Go and make disciples..."

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

It is God's mandate for us to bear fruit that will last.

John 15:16a

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain,

C. Manifested through the believers' common love, common purpose, and common mission

1 John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Matthew 22:39

And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Colossians 3:8-11

⁸But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

⁴There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

John 15:8

By this My Father is glorified,

that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Philippians 1:15-18

¹⁵Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: ¹⁶The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; ¹⁷but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁸What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

Philippians 1:27-30

²⁷Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

Conclusion

What is Christian unity?

Christian unity is a shared life in Jesus Christ; is to be a witness of Jesus to the world; and is manifested through love, purpose, and mission.

SHARE HIS WORD



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