

A close-up photograph of four hands of different skin tones (light, medium, and dark) clasped together in a circle, symbolizing unity and teamwork. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The background is a plain, light color.

Unity: Reasons & Hindrances John 17:20-22

Purpose: To examine the importance of
unity to the Christian and the church.

Introduction

- Many religious groups do not pretend to be united in doctrine. Diversity is praised.
- Congregations have split and suffered due to a lack of unity.
- Why seek unity?
- What prevents it?



Reasons for unity

- Unity with God will cause the world to believe (John 17:20-22).
- Unity with all believers is possible and expected (Eph. 4:3).
- Unity achieved provides joy and support (Ps. 133:1).
- Unity builds up. Divided we will not stand (Matt. 12:25).



Hindrances to unity

- Some will believe in deceptions instead of the truth (1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).
- Some are led by greed, lust and power (Jude 3-4, 11, 16-19).
- Some will seek to divide the body (Acts 20:27-30).



Hindrances to unity

- Some seek to redefine what God wants (Isa. 5:20-21).
- Self-serving people are divisive (Rom. 16:17-18).
- Some sow discord among brethren (Prov. 6:19).



Conclusion

- Unfortunately many will seek to follow others rather than God.
- God wants us to be united first with Him and then with others.
- Avoid the obstacles and push toward the goal of true unity.

