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| Slide # |  |
| **1** | **Unity In Diversity?** |
| **2** | **Unity Is Expected**  Jesus’ prayer: *“****That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You****… I in them and You in Me, that they may be* ***perfected in unity****.”* (John 17:20-23)  God expects ***“no division in the body.”*** (1 Corinthians 12:25)  We’re to **watch out for** those who ***“cause divisions and create obstacles”*** (Romans 16:17)  Psalms 133:1, ***“How good and how pleasant…”***  **The right heart must be developed.** (Ephesians 4:1-3) |
| **3** | **Perfection In Unity - Ephesians 4:4-7**  **One body -** one church;  **One Spirit -** one revelation of the mind of God;  **One hope -** laid up in heaven; One Lord - one ruler and judge;  **One faith - “**the faith”, the gospel, the word of God, the doctrine of Christ;  **One baptism -** the baptism in Christ and into His body for remission of sins and newness of life;  **One God and Father -** the giver of life and salvation. |
| **4** | **Unity In Diversity?**  **Diversity in what?**   * **In roles & duties?** (Ephesians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 12:12ff)… **YES!** (**Respecting the parameters or qualifications God has communicated in his word**; i.e., 1 Timothy 2 & 3; Titus 1; 1 Corinthians 14…) * **In talents & abilities?** (Romans 12:4-8; Matt. 25:14-15)**… YES!** * **In matters of liberty?(Romans 14)  YES!** |
| **5** | **Unity In Diversity?**  **Diversity in what?**   * **In doctrine, organization or work of the church?**   **NO!**  **Sound** **doctrine is to be adhered to.** (1 Timothy 4:6; 2 Timothy 1:13; Titus 1:9)  **Anything contrary to be opposed.** (1 Timothy 6:3; 2 Timothy 4:2-5; Galatians 1:6-9) |
| **6** | **Romans 14 & Unity In Diversity?**  The words “***accept the one who is weak in faith***”, “***who are you to judge***” and ***“God has accepted him***” are taken by some to be applied to ALL matters. |
| **7** | **Romans 14 & Unity In Diversity?**  Some believe **“every modern difference our brethren have had over the worship, work and organization of the church” is a matter of Romans 14** and that we should **“agree to disagree”. (Ketcherside)**  **Another said, “other than the central questions of the Lordship of Christ, all differences come within the scope of this passage.” (Palmer)** |
| **8** | **Romans 14 & Unity In Diversity?**  What “**diversity**” is being discussed in Romans 14?  **Matters of liberty or indifference in which God has neither commended nor condemned. (1 Cor. 8:8) “Good things” (Romans 14:16)**  **Specifically, in the context of Romans 14:**   * **The eating of meat** (vs. 2-3, 15-17) * **The observance of days.** (vs. 5-6) |
| **9** | **Romans 14 & Unity In Diversity?**  **In matters of liberty**, the focus should be on:   * **Not putting a stumbling block** before others. (vs. 13) * **Respect their conscience** as well as our own. (vs. 22-23) * **Please our neighbor** and not ourselves. (15:1-2) * **Pursue the things that make for peace**. (vs. 19) * **Be willing to forego a liberty** to save a soul and spread the gospel. (1 Corinthians 8:13; 9:15, 22-23) |
| **10** | **Unity In Diversity?**  **In doctrine? NO!**  **1 Corinthians 1:10, *“Now I exhort (beg) you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree (lit., speak the same thing;* AS, NKJV*) and there be no divisions (schisms) among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.”***   * + - ***Speak the same thing -* on what basis? On the basis of the revealed will of God rather than men. (1 Peter 4:11)**     - **Consider Acts 15 and note verses 7, 12 & 13-15.** |
| **11** | **1 Corinthians 1:10, *“Now I exhort (beg) you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree (lit., speak the same thing;* ASV, NKJV*) and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.”***   * + - ***“Same mind” -*** *reverence, humility, faith and trust.* (Philippians 2:1-5)     - **“Same judgment” - the conclusion reached** with the same mind. The outcome or determination.  “**What ought to be done**.” (NTWS) (Acts 15:19) |
| **12** | **Unity In Diversity?**  **What is our duty?**   * **“*Test the spirits…”*** (1 John 4:1) and **“s*earch the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.*”** (Acts 17:11; cf., 15:12-19) * **Demand the truth!** (2 Timothy 4:2-3) * “***Contend earnestly for the faith, once for all delivered***…” (Jude 3) with love and concern for the souls of others. * **We can’t extend fellowship to those who go beyond the “*doctrine of Christ*”**. (2 John 9-11; cf., Rev. 14-15; 2:24) * **Continue to learn and stand united in God’s revealed will**. |