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| ***Title:*** | Perfect Harmony |
| ***Text:*** | Acts 1:12 - 14 |
| ***Subject:*** | How were the disciples able to achieve such unity? |
| ***Compliment:*** | Because they were all yielded to the same Lord! |
| ***CIT:*** | The disciples were unified in Jesus because they were yielded to Jesus! |
| ***Purpose:*** | To help the church see that real unity can only be achieved if we are all being governed by the same head, and that unity is a natural derivative of that type of yieldedness. |
| ***Homiletic Idea:*** | Your church today can be unified if you, as its members, will choose to be completely yielded to Jesus! |
| ***Intro:*** |  |

So Jesus is about to ascend and just before he does he makes sure to tell the disciples to tarry, or wait, in Jerusalem until they are endued with power from on high! Jesus, the one that began the work, has to be the one to continue it if it is going to be continued! So He says wait. And they do!

That is what we find them doing. In verses twelve through fourteen of chapter one, they return to Jerusalem for that very purpose. We find them waiting and praying. They “continued with one accord…” it says.

The phrase “continued with one accord” comes from three Greek words. The first two Greek words are translated “continued”. The idea being conveyed is the disciples “continued to be attending” to something. The third Greek word describes the nature of their efforts. The verse reads, “These all continued ***with one accord***.”

This third Greek word is intriguing when looked at more closely. Human nature makes the realization of such a state seem almost unattainable, and yet this first local assembly made up of its various head strong leaders, doubters, and others from differing walks of life seems to have accomplished it rather naturally. What is the word you ask? It is ***“Homothymadon.”***

The word means, “With one mind, with one accord, with one passion.” BlueletterBibleonline.org has this note about the word:

A unique Greek word, used 10 of its 12 New Testament occurrences in the Book of Acts, helps us understand the uniqueness of the Christian community. Homothumadon is a compound of two words meaning to "rush along" and "in unison". The image is almost musical; a number of notes are sounded which, while different, harmonize in pitch and tone. As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concert master, so the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ's church.

In one room you have Peter, James, and John not known for their passive temperaments. Not to mention you have Andrew, who is Peter’s brother. Siblings are not necessarily known for how well they get along. You have dumb fishermen, crooked tax collectors, doubters, the beloved, and many more (120) diverse personalities (some of which are women…need I say more?) under one roof and all are “attending to” things in ***perfect harmony***.

It seems almost unbelievable, yet we know it to be the case. The question is how? If I were to take a guess I would say that probably it wasn’t because they strove to be unified. Unity probably wasn’t what consumed their thoughts.

The answer, I believe, lies in the text. Verses twelve and fourteen tell us that the disciples, ***in Jerusalem***, ***continued*** (with one accord) ***in prayer and supplication***. The reason the disciples were able to achieve such unity in their efforts was because they were yielded to the audience of their efforts. (CIT Stated)Let me say it this way, the disciples were unified in Jesus because they were all individually yielded to Jesus!

1. ***It was submission to Jesus command that landed them all back in Jerusalem together in the first place. Acts 1:4, 12***
   1. They didn’t think that up on their own.
      1. They didn’t take a vote.
      2. They didn’t debate the best course of action.
   2. Given the nature and the magnitude of the commission the church had been given this course of action didn’t even seem logical.
   3. Yet it is the course they took, and why? Because it is the course Jesus set them on.
2. ***It was submission to Jesus command that caused them all to continue together as they were. Acts 1:4, 14***
   1. They had no idea how long they were to wait
      1. Jesus gave no indication as to how long it would take.
      2. They had been waiting for ten days by the time the Holy Ghost had actually come with no sign that anything was happening at all.
   2. Jesus had made it very clear earlier in the chapter that God’s timing isn’t their concern. Acts 1:7

Note: Acts 1:7 is Jesus response to the disciples questions concerning the restoration of the kingdom, but if you notice what he says, though he is responding specifically to that question, it is though he is answering in such a way to deter all questions with regard to “the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power.”

* 1. And so they waited, and why? Because that is what Jesus commanded them to do.

1. ***It wasn’t independence and individuality that kept them on their knees.***
   1. Their prayers and supplications demonstrated the anticipation and eagerness with which they yielded to Jesus.
      1. They sought the Father in prayer because they desired to hear from the Son.
      2. A servant that is eager to fulfill his office will not be difficult to find. Simply locate the master, and there the servant will be.
   2. The manner after which Jesus taught them to pray demands an attitude of dependence and surrender. Matt. 6:5-13
      1. V5-6, Aim your prayers at God’s ear only.
      2. V7-8, Pray in faith trusting that God does hear and knows of your needs.
      3. V9, Pray endeavoring to worship the Father.

Note: The idea of worship involves lowering one’s self in an effort to show the worth of another. Jesus teaches the disciples to ask God to help them develop this attitude of worship by hallowing or making His name holy. It’s not that His name is not holy, but it is not always the case in our own hearts and minds. This is due to either our sinful fallen nature or lack of effort in considering and meditating on Him, but regardless the request is that this flaw in us would be remedied.

* + 1. V10, Pray seeking the will of the Father.
    2. V11, Pray acknowledging your dependence on the Father.
    3. V12, Pray seeking forgiveness from the Father.
    4. V13, Pray seeking the deliverance of the Father.
    5. V13, Pray praising the Father.
  1. Jesus says that, “I and my Father are one.” John 10:30
  2. They were on their knees praying and waiting because their desire was to do the will of Jesus.

1. ***Unity, by the way, is more than just getting along. It is also going the same direction; complementing (not saying nice things, but fitting together in such a way that enhances our ability to accomplish an end) one another.***

Transition to Application:

The local New Testament church was designed with unity in mind. The fact is that unity is the natural derivative of a church’s members each individually being yielded to the will of the head Jesus Christ. The disciples were unified in Jesus because they were yielded to Jesus. What about you?

The same principle applies even today. Jesus is still the head of the local New Testament church. God is still not the author of confusion. If the members are in submission to the head then unity is the only possible result.

* Is where you are, where God wants you to be? Are you in “Jerusalem” as Jesus commanded?
  + What determines where you go?
* Are you doing what He has made clear for you to do? Are you “waiting” as He instructed?
  + Who determines what you do?
    - Are you acting on your own agenda?
    - Or are you acting in accordance with your Head (Jesus)?
* Are you positioning yourself before Him in a manner that will allow you to hear what he has not yet said when he gets ready to say it? Are you attending regularly to “prayer and supplication” before the Lord?
* If so then unity won’t be an issue!
  + Not only will you get along, but you will be involved in helping the body get along in the work it has been commissioned to do.
* If not then unity will be an impossibility.

Because:

* In order to be unified in Jesus you must be yielded to Jesus!

Conclusion:

A pastor I know tells a story about one of his granddaughters. She contracted Rocky Mountain Spotted fever from a tick bite that doctors failed to address. The illness has damaged her nervous system. Her brain which is totally fine, isn’t able to communicate well with her body. This affects her speech, it affects her ability to walk, and various other motor skills. She has the brain, he says, of a perfectly normal 18 year old girl, but you would never know it because much of her body isn’t in submission to her brain. You understand her head is fine. The problem is with certain members of her body. They are sick, and the whole body is affected.

In order to be unified in Jesus you must be yielded to Jesus!

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| ***Dates and Locations Delivered*** | |  |
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