



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### One Accord!

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 1:10 - Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **ye all speak the same thing**, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly **joined together in the same mind** and in the same judgment.

"**In one accord**" refers to **unity of purpose and action between people**. It means having a common purpose and setting aside personal views for a greater goal. When a group of people acts single-mindedly, unanimously, in harmony, in unity, and without dissent, they are operating in one accord. Having the same mindset, passion, purpose, and focus. It is more than just surface agreement – it implies a deep unity of heart and soul.

Unity of spirit, is the oneness which subsists between Christ and His saints, by which the same spirit dwells in both, and both have the same disposition and aims; and it is the oneness of Christians among themselves, united under the same head, having the same spirit dwelling in them, and possessing the same graces, faith, love, hope, etc. Unity is the state of being joined together or in agreement.

*"The Day of Pentecost was fully come; they were all with **one accord** in one place"* (Acts 2:1) resulted in a worldwide harvest of new believers—the first converts to Christianity. This kind of oneness of heart and soul in the body of Christ is only possible through the Holy Spirit's enabling (Ephesians 4:1–6). It is a gift of God's grace (Romans 12:3–13).

Differences of opinion are inevitable among human personalities and can actually be helpful if handled well. But spiritual unity is essential—loyalty, commitment, and love for God and His Word. **Without spiritual unity, the church could not survive.** Paul wrote the letter of 1 Corinthians to urge the church in Corinth toward greater unity.

The people began arguing, divisions arose, and some slipped back into the immoral life-style prevalent in the city. Paul was speaking to all believers, male and female. **All Christians are part of God's family and share a unity that runs even deeper than that of blood brothers and sisters.** To *"speak the same thing,"* allow for *"no divisions among you,"* and *"be perfectly joined together"* does not require everyone to believe just like everyone else. There is a difference between having opposing viewpoints and being divisive. A group of people will not completely agree on every issue, but they can work together harmoniously if they agree on what truly matters—Jesus Christ as of all. Talk and behave in a way that will reduce arguments and increase harmony. Petty differences should never divide the people of God.

Paul also encouraged the people of God to fight side by side, "striving" or contending for the faith. How sad that much time and effort is lost by fighting against one another in the church instead of uniting against the real opposition (Satan)! It takes a courageous congregation to resist infighting and to maintain a common purpose to serve Christ.

When people are concerned only for themselves, seeds of discord are sown. Paul therefore stresses spiritual unity, asking the people of God to love one another and to work together with one heart and purpose (*"being of one accord, of one mind"*). When we work together, caring for the problems of others as if they were our own, we demonstrate Christ's example of putting others first, and we create unity. Don't be so concerned about making a good impression or meeting your own needs that you strain relationships in God's family. **If there is to be unity in the body of Christ, we must feel and show kindness and affectionate sympathy to one another.**

To accept Jesus' lordship in all areas of life means to share His values and His perspective. We are to have His attitude of love toward other Christians (*"be likeminded one toward another"*). As we grow in faith and come to know Jesus better, we become more capable of maintaining this attitude throughout our lives. Paul's closing words in 2 Corinthians 13:11 let us know that we must hammer out difficulties to bring peace, by applying the principles of God's Word and not just hear them.