

Thank you...Again...Chuck Scull
Speaker for today

Attention

Business Meeting next Sunday 2:30

UNITY

*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!”*
Psalms 133:1

April Birthdays

6 Susan Hudson. 16 Alana Hudson 19 Abel Martinez
23 Shannon Hudson 25 Calvin Cree
25 Guillermina Torres 27 Maria Velasquez
30 Aaron McCollum 30 Margaret Graddon

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown
28 Lyle & Margaret Graddon

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher: Vacant

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Indio Informer

*“Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding.”*

Proverb 3:5

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- *“Fight the good fight”*
- *“Keep the faith”*
- *“Finish the course”*

Building the Lord’s Body Requires Unity

Excerpts from article by Kevin Cauley

What does it take to have Christian unity? The apostle Paul wrote about it in Ephesians 4:1-16. He commented upon four areas of focus that are absolutely necessary for Christian unity: attitude, doctrine, organization, and working relationship.

We must have the right attitude to have Christian unity. Paul wrote, *“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* The world may elevate, lift itself up in pride, cut others short, and run amuck of one another, but God calls all Christians to refuse the passions of the flesh, and bring themselves under control of the spirit. Unity is an endeavor, both personally and collectively.

We must have the right doctrine to have unity. Paul wrote, *“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and*

through all, and in you all.” Here are listed seven essentials on which we must not compromise. Certainly, there are other areas of concern. However, if within these seven “ones,” we find disagreement with others, we must work to unite upon God’s truth.

We must have the right organization. Paul lists the following “offices” for church work: *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”* Again, this is not an exhaustive list, but all of these offices are provided for today’s church. Some, however, are no longer filled because of their temporary nature. The church continues to benefit from the work of the apostles and prophets in the first century. Evangelists, shepherds, and teachers work with the church today to lead, guide, and teach others. The church must be organized correctly in order to be united.

We must have the right working spirit. Paul wrote, *“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”* In all things we are to have love one toward another. This, however, does not mean that everyone does the same work. In Romans 12 and in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul discusses how each member has different abilities. Different parts of the physical body work differently. The eye cannot do the hearing, etc. So also, in the church everyone has their role to perform. We need to make an effort to determine what those roles are and try to fill them to the best of our ability; otherwise, we will have disunity.

Unity is hard; it is an endeavor. Trying to find easy solutions to difficult problems never works out in the long run; this

kind of attitude leads to the cafeteria mentality for churches. Strong and lasting relationships depend on our working out our differences according to God’s pattern. May God help us to so do.

Does Truth Matter?

By Jay Launius

What is truth, and can we really know if there is an absolute truth? Although this is not a new question, over the past few years there has been a debate as to whether there is anything that is absolute. Absolute truths are those things, beliefs, or statements which cannot be changed. For instance, there are no square circles, time always moves forward, or all people die. Relative truths are those things which are subjective, conditional, and can change over time.

The problem occurs when the lines between absolute and relative truths become blurred, or the rules of relative truth are applied to the absolutes. We see this happen especially when concerning moral topics such as the belief in God, the abortion debate, and issues concerning gender. However, these problems are easily solved by the person of faith. Believers take it on faith that there is one God and one Christ with unchanging natures (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8). They believe in the true and infallible word of God (John 17:17). Within the pages of the Scriptures, Christians find the absolute moral standard of living, and the undeniable and undebatable code of conduct that will be used to judge all people (John 12:48).

These are the absolute truths that can set people free from sin and spiritual death, (John 8:32) leading to an eternal existence, literally immortality in the presence of God and Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:54; 1 John 2:17). *“We are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”* (1 John 5:20b)