

BIBLICAL UNITY

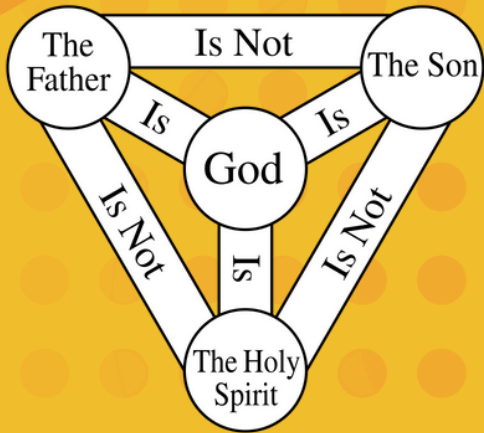
ACTS 2:1-4

1 When the day of Pentecost came, **they were all together in one place**. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

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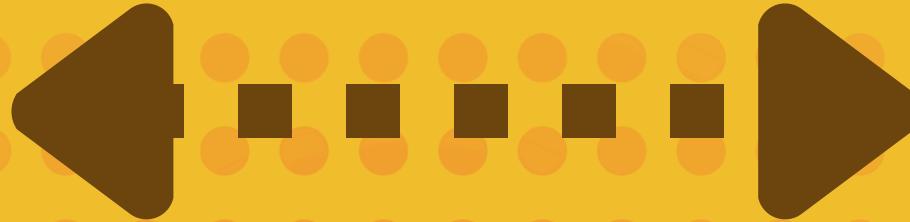
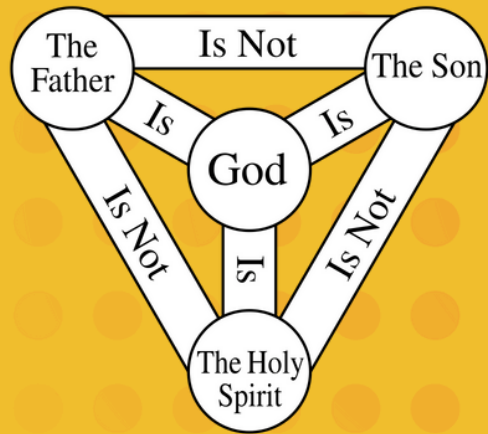
1. **Rooted in Christ:** Unity begins with a shared faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (Ephesians 4:3–13).
2. **Empowered by the Spirit:** The Holy Spirit enables and maintains true unity among believers (1 Corinthians 12:13).
3. **Based on Truth:** Unity is grounded in sound doctrine and the truth of God's Word (2 John 1:9–11).
4. **Expressed in Love:** Genuine unity is marked by humility, patience, forgiveness, and love toward one another (Colossians 3:12–14).
5. **Diverse, Not Uniform:** It embraces diversity in gifts, roles, and backgrounds while maintaining oneness in purpose (Romans 12:4–5).
6. **Centered on God's Glory:** The ultimate goal of biblical unity is to glorify God and reflect His nature to the world (John 17:22–23; Romans 15:5–6).
7. **Missional in Focus:** Unity strengthens the church's witness to the gospel (John 13:35; Philippians 1:27).

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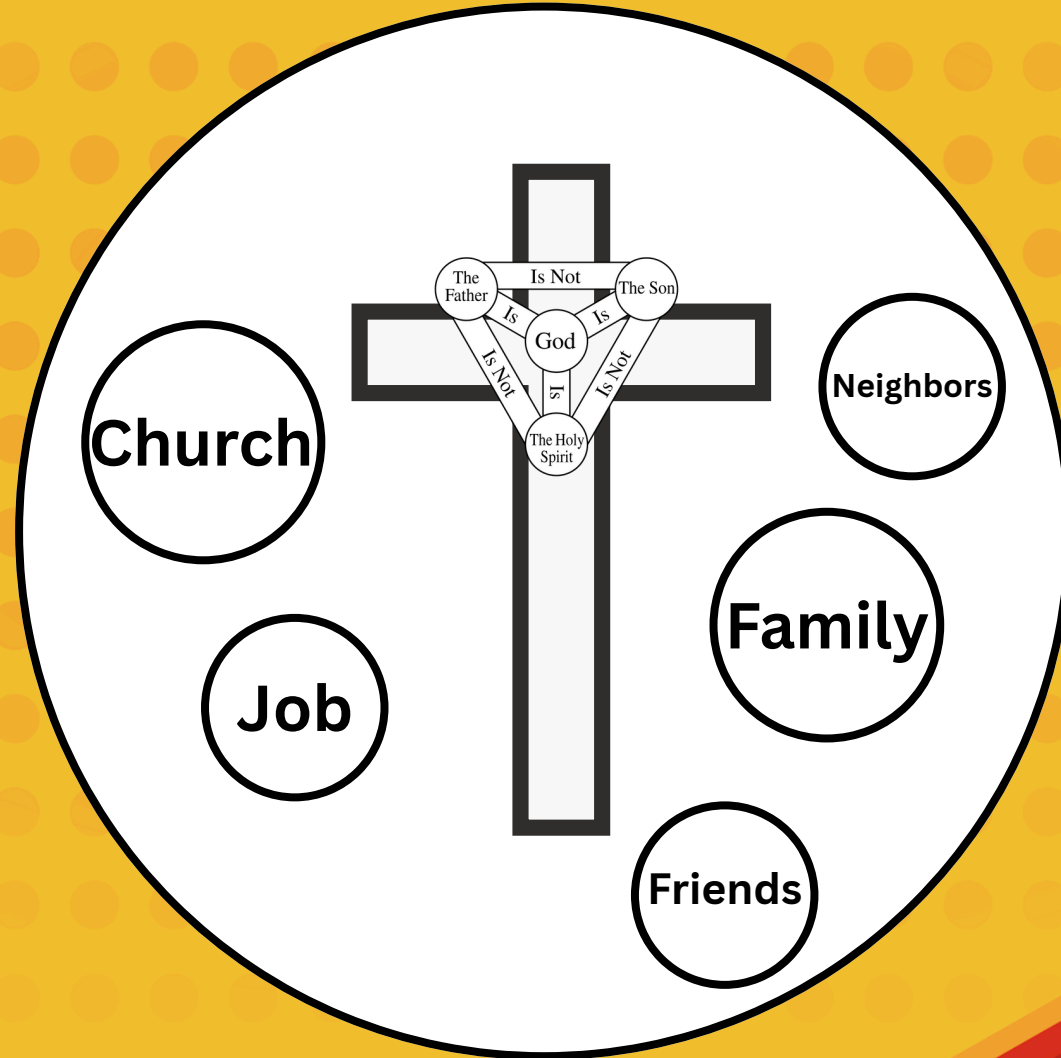
FATHER ↔ JESUS ↔ CHURCH



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1 CORINTHIANS 12:27-31

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.



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1. Pride and Selfish Ambition

- Challenge: Pride disrupts unity by placing self above others.
- Example: “I follow Paul... I follow Apollos” – division over leaders (1 Corinthians 1:12).
- Solution: “Do nothing from selfish ambition... but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)

2. Doctrinal Disputes

- Challenge: Disagreements over teachings can fracture fellowship.
- Example: Dispute over circumcision (Acts 15:1–2).
- Solution: “They gathered to consider the matter” – sought wisdom together (Acts 15:6); also “Speak the truth in love...” (Ephesians 4:15)

3. Ethnic and Cultural Divisions

- Challenge: Prejudice or favoritism breaks the unity of the body.
- Example: Conflict between Jews and Gentiles in the early church (Galatians 2:11–14).
- Solution: “There is neither Jew nor Greek... for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

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4. Unforgiveness and Relational Hurt

- Challenge: Bitterness and unresolved conflict hinder unity.
- Example: Euodia and Syntyche's conflict (Philippians 4:2).
- Solution: "Forgive one another as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)

5. False Teachers and Divisive People

- Challenge: Those who stir up division threaten the church's unity.
- Example: "Watch out for those who cause divisions..." (Romans 16:17)
- Solution: "Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning." (Titus 3:10)

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PSALM 133:1-3

1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! 2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. 3 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

