

**INTRO: What Does “ONENESS” Really Mean?** We live in a world of fragmentation—divided hearts, divided homes, divided churches, divided minds. **Sin does that!** → It Shatters; it Separates! – **But JESUS CHRIST speaks a different Word over His people:** → He came to make us **“ONE!”** – Not partially united, not occasionally connected, but **Spiritually, Relationally,** and **Eternally ONE!** → Because it’s **COMMUNION SUNDAY**, I want to take this time to examine what scripture says about the need for **SPIRITUAL ONENESS with God** and how **COMMUNION** is an essential part of experiencing that **UNION**.

## **1. ONE IDENTITY IN CHRIST (Gal 3:26-28)** – **READ:** *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus...”*

**A. Truth:** If we are truly **Born Again**, we don’t try to become one—we are **Already ONE In Christ** (cf. 2 Cor 5:17). – Scripture also reminds us:

- (1 Cor 12:13) – *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body”*
- (Eph 4:4-6) – *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”* – **A Wonderful Reality!**

**B. Tension:** However, many believers still live with a fractured sense of identity, because of their own sin, shame, or even ignorance to what our Identity in Christ really means. – We must understand that **“Unity is not achieved by Uniformity, but by Union with Christ.”**

**Segue:** If we are already One in identity, why do we still feel divided internally? Perhaps it’s because something still competes for first place within our hearts and minds...

## **2. ONE THING LACKING (Mark 10:21–22)** – **READ:** *“One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have...”* **This speaks of the need for a totally Surrendered Heart!**

**A. The Rich Young Ruler had religion... but not surrender!** – Many people and **even church-goers** find themselves at similar cross-roads... **STUCK** because of **STUFF** – **SORROWFUL** because of **POSSESSIONS** (aka worldliness!) – Remember what Jesus taught in...

- (Matt 6:24) – *“You cannot serve God and mammon!”* (cf. 1 John 2:15-17)
- (Luke 9:62) – *“No one... looking back is fit for the kingdom”*

**B. Insight:** When **ONE THING becomes an IDOL** it blocks **Spiritual Oneness**. – Paul explained this to the Corinthian church (**tt. 1 Cor 10:14-17**). – *True Believers in Christ have something different!*

- **COMMUNION** {Grk. **Koinonia**} means to have in common, to participate or have partnership with (cf. 1 Cor 1:9; 2 Cor 8:4; Phil 2:1; 3:10). – As the body of Christ, we partake of the **Bread of Communion** and the **Cup of Blessing** which represents **Christ’s Sacrificial Death** and **Full Atoning Work** (Rom 3:25; Eph 1:7; 2:13; Rev 1:5; 5:9). → **It keeps us Focused!**
- Paul’s admonition was in contrast to the **IDOLATRY** mentioned in (1 Cor 10:1-10).

- My point is that every IDOL in our lives **MUST BE SURRENDERED!** – Anything you cannot release to God will eventually rule you! –
- Q: Are you lacking Spiritual Oneness because you're holding to an IDOL? **Surrender it now!** – *Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy.* (Jonah 2:8)

**Segue:** If surrender removes barriers, then **Intimacy Requires Priority!** → We must choose to position our hearts before Him...always in all things!

### 3. ONE THING NEEDED (Luke 10:41-42) – READ: “*But One Thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part...*” This speaks of a Devoted Heart!

Supporting Cross References:

- Psalm 27:4 – “*One thing I have desired of the LORD...that will I seek!*”
- James 4:8 – “*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you*”

A. **Insight: Distraction** is often more dangerous than rebellion because it feels acceptable. –

**P/A:** You can be Busy in the house of God and **Miss the God of the house!**

**Segue:** *Mary shows us what Devotion with Jesus is*—but next, **Jesus Himself** reveals what perfect intimacy looks like... with the Father!

### 4. ONE WITH THE FATHER (John 10:30) – Jesus declared... “*I and My Father are one.*” This speaks of **Perfect Unity!** – INTIMACY in the Bible means a deep, personal, and unhindered connection with God and others, characterized by being fully known and fully loved without shame. – It represents a “**KNOWING**” {Heb. *Yada*} that involves vulnerability, trust, obedience, and spiritual closeness rather than just intellectual knowledge.

A. Jesus demonstrated **Complete Unity** with the Father through **PRAYER** and **OBEDIENCE** – This is recognized elsewhere in Scripture:

- (John 5:19) – “*The Son can do nothing of Himself*”
- (Luke 5:16) – “*He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed*”

*Jesus' relationship with the Father teaches us that...*

B. **Oneness** is not mystical—**it is Relational Alignment!** – His **Obedience** then served as a visible expression of their Invisible Intimacy.

**Segue:** Jesus goes on to explain that this **ONENESS between Father and Son** is not meant to remain exclusive.

### 5. ONE WITH HIS DISCIPLES (John 17:11) – READ: “*That they may be one as We are.*”

A. Knowing that after His Death and Departure, **HIS DISCIPLES** would need **Divine Protection** from **Satan** and this **World** (cf. John 15:18-16-4) so, Jesus prayed for them!

B. But Jesus especially prayed that **HIS DISCIPLES** would share the same SPIRITUAL ONENESS with the Divine Godhead! (*I often try to comprehend the Oneness of the Godhead, but it's even harder to consider the INCLUSION of His Disciples!* – *There was Nothing Holy about them, until Jesus SANCTIFIED them!*)

**Segue:** An even **GREATER WONDER** is the fact that **Jesus didn't stop with the twelve!** → **JESUS ALSO DRAWS YOU** and I into the Divine Fellowship...

**6. ONE IN US (John 17:20-23)** – **READ:** Notice first Jesus' prayer is for US! (v.20) – That is, anyone who Believes in Jesus Christ through the Word from His Disciples, would likewise be allowed access into such **Divine Fellowship**. →

**A.** The apostle John makes this Very Clear in (1 John 1:3-4), *“that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, *“Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality **Created by God in Christ in which we may participate.**”* Even further...

**B.** SPIRITUAL ONENESS is what the Godhead Always Desired (John 17:21) *“...That they also may be one in Us.”* – N.T. Wright *“The unity for which Jesus prayed is not merely organizational, but rooted in shared life in God.”*

- The apostle Paul knew this to be possible only by the **Mystery Revealed** to true believers in Christ, (Col 1:27) *“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”*
- **P/A** – Christianity then is not about God near you—it is **God in you!**

**Segue:** And if that were not enough... **Jesus adds one more revelation of grace...**

**7. ONE FAMILY (tt. Hebrews 2:10-11)** – **READ:** The depth of Jesus' commitment was **Not Only to Save Us**, but to Share His life with Us, and to bring *“many sons to glory,”* adopting us into God's family.

**A.** The Salvation Jesus brought was **more than a rescue**; it is elevation into a **SPIRITUAL ONENESS** which we are to abide continually (John 15:1-5)

**B.** As His (Body) Church, we are **called to reflect this same spiritual oneness**: United in Christ, bound together as one family, living in the reality that we belong to Him and to one another. (Rom 12:5) *so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*

**COMMUNION CALL:** The Spirit of God prompts every believer to earnestly Seek this **Unity**, this **Oneness**, this **Communion** with the **Father and with the Son**. – **Q:** Do you see yourself as welcomed by Jesus Christ, or do you still stand at a distance? **What is your Understanding of Communion?** What if the bread and the cup are not just symbols—but a summons into Oneness with God?

- But before doing so, **we must examine our hearts**. Do I have any type of unconfessed sin?
- If I am harboring hate for a brother or sister and I still partake of Communion, then I am doing it in an unworthy manner, and will bring judgment to myself.

**COMMUNION TEXT: (1 Cor 11:23-32)** Communion invites **honesty** before it offers intimacy.