



Unity

Reflecting God's Image

Unity



- Definitions are important, so lets define what we are talking about

Definition:

- Unity:
 - (noun): the state of forming a complete and pleasing whole, the state of being united or joined as a whole



Definitions:

- Biblical Definition:
 - Unity
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **all of you agree**, and that there be **no divisions among you**, but that you **be united in the same mind and the same judgement**.



Light:

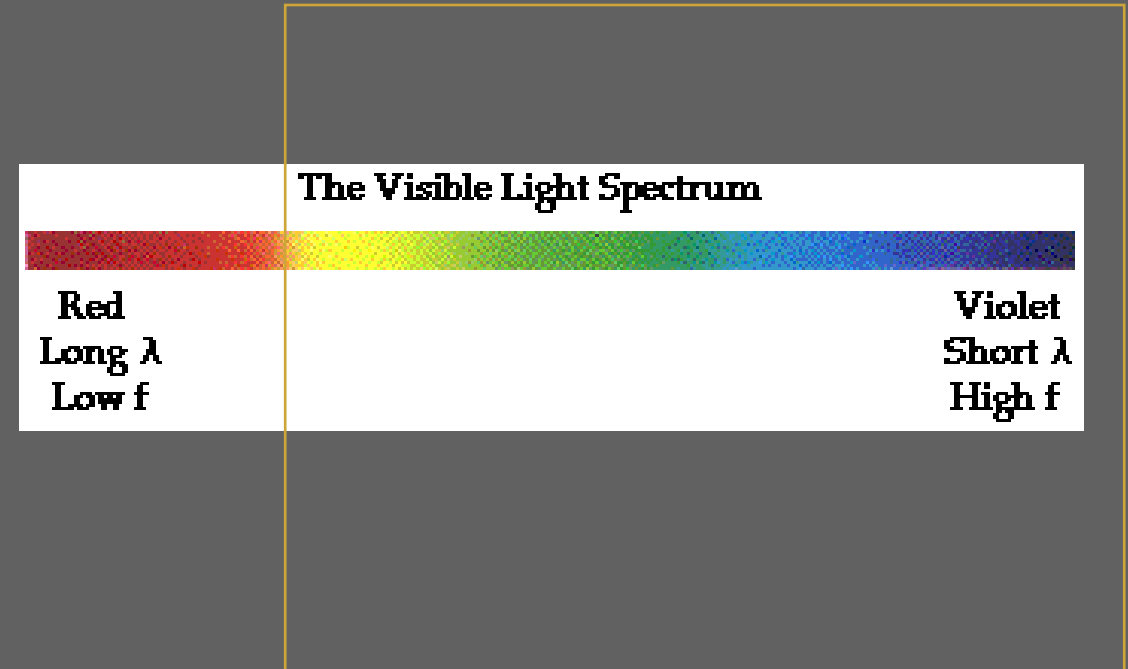
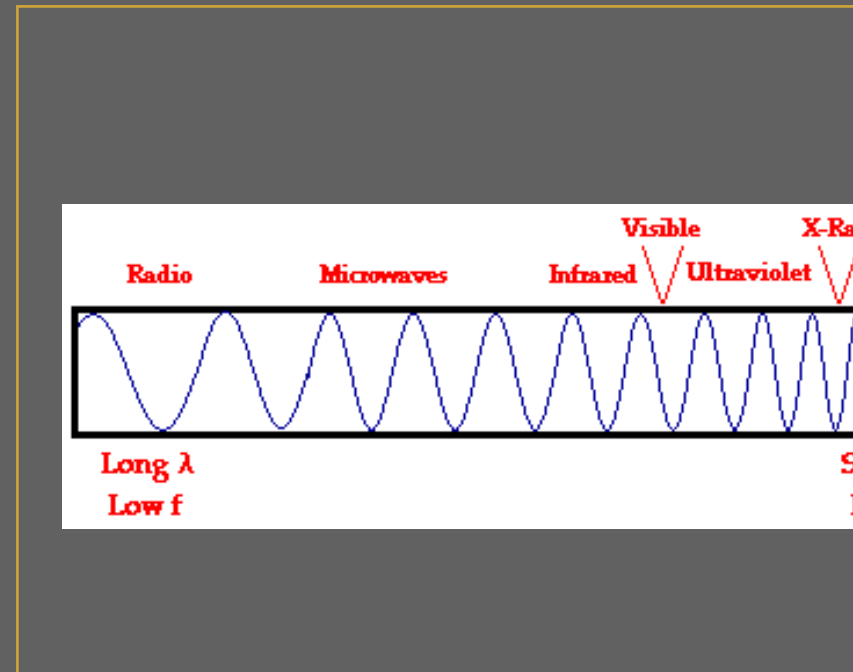
- John 1: 1-5

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made,.....God's creation reveals who he is.
 - Romans 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made so they are without excuse.



Light:

- Visible light spectrum is made up of many wavelengths, all of which generate a different color but come from a single source (the sun) – ROYGBIV, also known as white light
- What color an object is depends on which wavelength it reflects back –
 - An object is blue, absorbs all wavelengths except for the “blue” wavelength
 - An object that is white **reflects back all** the wavelengths
 - An object that is black, **absorbs all** the wavelengths.
 - Black is merely the absence of the wavelengths being reflected back



Light

- Color Perception:
 - What the object is made of, the arrangement and frequency of its electrons determines what color it reflects back.
 - The personality, talents and gifts that God has given us, the experiences of our lives, the arrangement of our being, all influence how we reflect Christ to the world.
 - James 1:17 Every **good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, ...
 - Romans 12:6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.



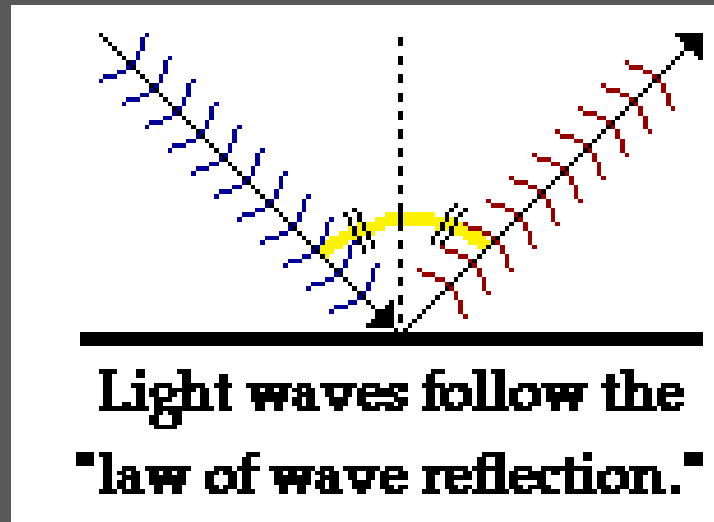
Light

- Romans 12: 4-5
 - For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- We may have different colors of the light spectrum that we reflect back, but we all called to reflect the same white light, Jesus Christ
- “Unity is oneness of purpose, not sameness of persons” Tony Evans



Light

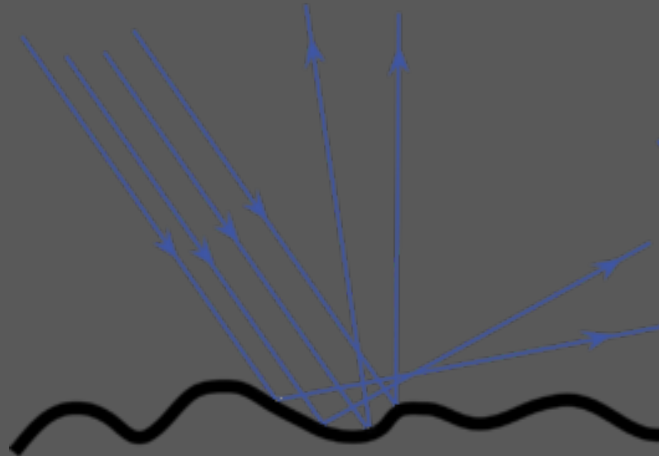
- The reflection of light waves off of a **mirrored surface** results in the formation of an image.
- One characteristic of wave reflection is that the **angle at which the wave approaches a flat reflecting surface is equal to the angle at which the wave leaves the surface.**



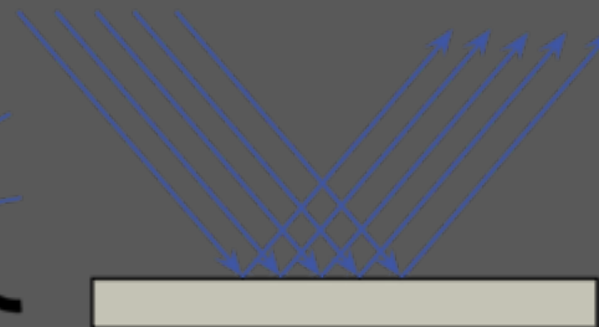
Light

- Light strikes different parts of a rough surface at different angles and is reflected, or diffused, in many different directions.

Diffuse reflection from a rough surface.



Regular reflection from a smooth surface.



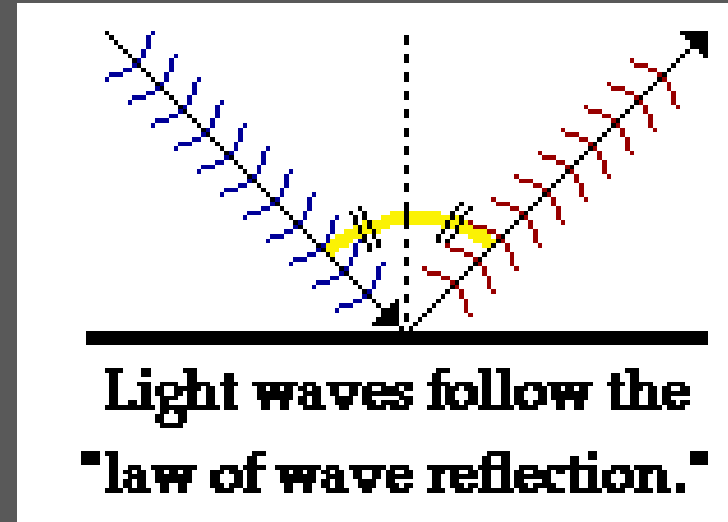
Light:

- Romans 12:2
 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- 2 Corinthians 5: 17
 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.



Light

- His light, his Holy Spirit can make us new.
- Isaiah 40: 3-5
 - A voice cries: “in the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low: the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.



Light

- He is making us a new creation.
- He is changing us to look more like him –
- Ephesians 4:11
 -and he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, **for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. **Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**



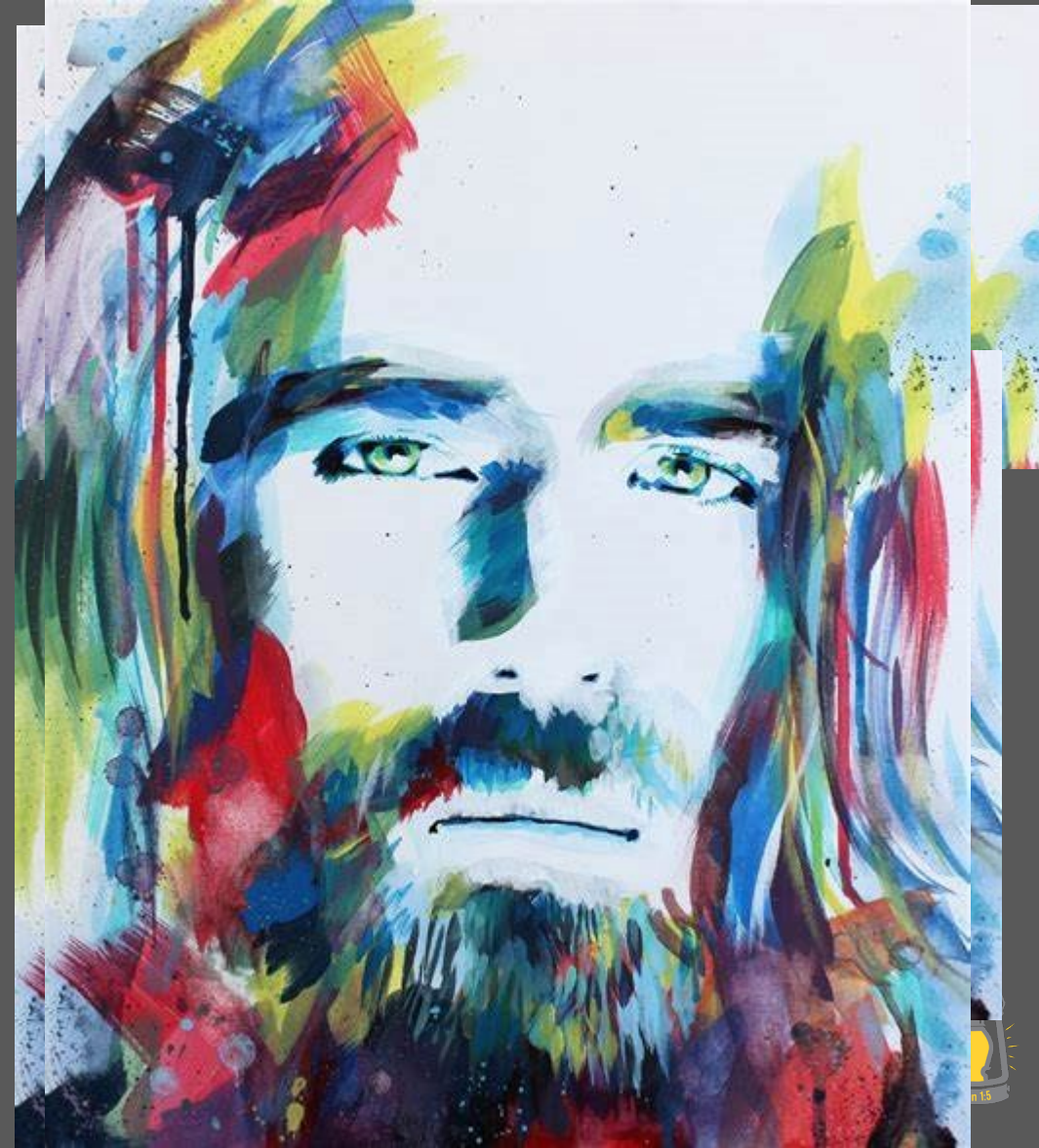
Light

- As we become more like him, he changes our inner being, our frequency. We no longer reflect our individual color, we reflect him better – white light
- John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease



Unity of the body

- Light is from a single source
- Individually we reflect God's image when we allow him to shape us and transform us.
- Corporately we can more accurately reflect God's image
 - "God is love because God is triune. There was never a time when love was not, because there was never a time when the Trinity was not. To be made in God's image --- the God who is love,... means that we, at the creaturely level, are wired for relationships. God made us to enjoy him and reflect him,... Adam cannot, then, reflect God's beauty alone ---not because it's difficult without a helper but because it's impossible without an other. ... So God created man in his own image... male and female he created them..... One person alone could not reflect the fullness of God's communal image."
 - Drew Hunter, Made for Friendship



- John 17: 11 Holy Father, **keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.**
- John 17:16 – 19 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.** As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

- John 17: 20-23, 26 I do not ask for these only, but **also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.** The glory that you have given me I have given to them, **that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.26** I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.



Unity

- Is not about the sameness of persons, but the oneness of purpose,...showing the world who Christ is, what the gospel says about him and what he has done for us!
- Allowing Christ to work in us individually so that corporately we can reflect his light to the world with a love that comes from him.



- “You never know what God has up his sleeve to make us more like Christ.”
 - Elizabeth Elliott



(Place your scripture, quote or photo here, i.e.)

*The Light
shines in the darkness,
and the darkness
has not overcome it.*

-John 1:5