

In Our Prayers...

**Requester's name is in parentheses*

Shirlean Johnson (Larry McKesson) – Shirlean is now recovering at home from foot amputation surgery.

Lyle Provost (Kim Proost) – Lyle is doing well following surgery for a brain tumor. Radiation therapy and other treatments are ongoing.

Melinda Black (Susie Puckett) – Melinda is scheduled for a difficult and necessary medical procedure on September 9th. Melinda is Susie's cousin.

Miriam Rodriguez (Larry McKesson) – Miriam is home after a recent surgery in Denver. She returns to her doctor in November to be placed on the wait list for liver transplant.

Ongoing Health Concerns — Jim Beaver; Miriam Rodriguez; Vashara; Ken Williard's daughter-in-law; Yolanda & Judy Woody; Cailin Porter; Bobby Arnett; David Frederick; Rick Hales; Bill Harrell; Josh Martin; Karen Crowson; Terry Wells.

Door for the Word – Pray for relationships with the lost that lead to opportunities to talk about Jesus.

Announcements

Business Meeting Today immediately following the worship assembly, the men of the congregation need to have a brief meeting to discuss a few urgent matters.

September Cookout Kenny & Debbie Sutherlin are hosting a cookout fellowship at their Vallecito house. Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 19th, beginning at noon. See the note posted in the foyer for more details. This is a great opportunity to bring a guest!

The church of Christ in Durango

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Service Times

Bible Study

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

Worship

Sunday 10:20 a.m.



The Durango Disciple

September 6, 2026

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How Much Must We Agree to Be “Of One Mind”?

By Nathan G. Wheeler

Jesus prayed that the Church would be unified (John 17:21). He prayed for our unity, because it is necessary for the world to believe what we have to say about the good news of Jesus: “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 sent me.” In fact, Jesus prayed “that they may become perfectly one” (v. 23).

What does it mean to be “perfectly one”? Surely Paul describes this level of unity when he writes, “complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind,” (Phil 2:2).

Likewise, he writes to the Corinthian Christians, “Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you,” (2 Cor 13:11).

Because of this, Churches of Christ have traditionally called upon all believers to pursue agreement according to the Bible. Our conviction has been that if we can all put aside our prior

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assumptions about the truth, we could simply read the Bible together and find agreement on the truth. That is a lofty and noble and godly ideal. It is worth pursuing indefinitely.

Yet, two centuries of experience in the Restoration Movement demonstrate that being perfectly united by agreeing upon important matters of doctrine and practice is not attainable. The effort has, tragically, led to more division than unity.

Perhaps reflecting back upon the New Testament record will help us to see that agreement on every biblical matter is not the New Testament church pattern.

Take the situation Paul addresses in 1 Corinthians. He addresses the letter to “the church...those sanctified in Christ Jesus...Grace to you and peace...,” (1:2-3). This greeting grants that he is writing to people who enjoy full “Christian” status. He is not questioning their salvation.

Yet, the Christians in Corinth were highly divided, something akin to present day “denominations” (1:10-12; Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, etc.). Several points of disagreement and controversy among them comprise the main things Paul writes about (7:1). Some of these matters come down to differences of opinion where God has not spoken clearly one way or another.

For example, on the matter of whether Christians may eat meat sacrificed to idols, Paul teaches that there is no word from God (8:8). Instead, Paul teaches that while disagreeing on this volatile issue, Christians must continue to love and serve one another (8:9, 13).

In this way, Paul points the Corinthians—and with them all Christians—to the form and manner of being “perfectly one.” Christians have always had differences of opinion about important, Scriptural matters. The “one mind” in which Christians are united is the loving, servant mind of Jesus:

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...,” (Phil 2:4-5).

Sermon Notes

Weekly Bible Reading Schedule

September 5	Mon	Isaiah 46 – 49
September 6	Tue	Isaiah 50 – 53
September 7	Wed	Isaiah 54 – 57
September 8	Thur	Isaiah 58 – 61
September 9	Fri	Isaiah 62 – 65
