

Uniting Believers: What will it take for all who claim to believe in the God of the Bible to be united?

There are literally thousands of “kinds” of churches in the world- all claiming to be, in one form or the other, the “church” of the Bible (obviously this is excepting those who claim affiliations to other deities). If we assume that all who are “church members” of any stripe are what they are because they believe their particular denomination to be right- that they aren’t affiliated because of such things as *family ties and inherited allegiances, greater business opportunities, or secular advantages* (education, entertainment, social networking capabilities, etc.), two questions naturally follow:

1. **Is this pleasing to God?** Otherwise stated, does a God of *unity* possess a people so divided? Obviously not, according to God’s word, **cf. John 17:17-21; Eph.4:4-7; 1Cor.1:10**. So then,
2. **What will it take for all “believers” to become *united*?**

While I don’t presume to have “all” the answers, I have at least considered the question. Here are some preliminary, or at least fundamental, observations in an attempt to answer it. For self-affirmed “believers” to be truly united, at least three essential principles must be adopted, understood, and practiced without fail or equivocation:

A. Firm conviction on the part of all that the Bible is indeed God’s Word.

Sounds simple enough, right? Do all who claim to “believe *in* the God of the Bible” actually believe the Bible is God’s Word? Nope. Proof? [Heb.6:18](#) >

-*Theistic Evolution*, cf. [Gen.1:31 – 2:1](#); [Ex.20:9-11](#); what sense do these verses make if each “day” of creation took millions of years to accomplish? None.

-*Moral Relativism*, [1Cor.6:9-10](#); God determined and declared that ***all*** of these practices were: *unrighteousness*; and would thus keep the practitioner from heaven. Thus, we don’t get to relegate *any* of them to being *relatively* unimportant, less sinful, or righteous.

But the Bible ***is*** God’s word, [2Tim.3:16-17](#); [1Thess.2:13](#); [Eph.3:3-5](#).

God is even responsible for the *words* used to convey His thoughts, [1Cor.2:10-13](#).

Therefore, **we must accept it *all* as true** instead of picking and choosing the parts we want to believe, or want to accept as *relative* to us.

“Believers” must be first united on this basis.

B. *Relativism* and *subjectivism* must be eliminated from the process of understanding and applying God’s Word. God says what He means, and means what He says- “Truth” is neither *relative* nor *subjective*. [Gen.3](#)

“Relativism” (along with *subjectivism*) has destroyed the potential for unity among believers in the God of the Bible more than any other factor.

“The term often refers to *truth relativism*, which is the doctrine that there are no [absolute truths](#), i.e., that truth is always relative to some particular frame of reference, such as a language or a culture.” ([Wikipedia](#)) Example: “That may be true or right for you, but not necessarily for me.”

“Subjectivism” is akin to relativism in its effect. It says that “truth” is *subject* to my own understanding or interpretation of it. Not true! Our *application* of truth is subject to our understanding of it- not the truth itself, cf. Rom.3:3-4; John 8:31-32. But this realization leads to another key point: Two opposing positions do not “understand the Bible differently” as many suggest. One may *understand* and the other may *misunderstand*, or both may *misunderstand*, but both do not *understand differently*. Why? **Because truth is neither relative nor subjective, 1Cor.14:37-38; Rom.1:16-17**. God does not say two different things to two different people, Acts 10:34-35; 17:30-31.

C. Decide that “Truth” matters. It is, after all, that which frees when it is *known* and *obeyed*.

The notion that Truth is somehow less critical than “honesty and sincerity” is, in my opinion, the single greatest tool ever wielded by Satan. It destroys the *credibility* of God’s Word. If, as we are sometimes told, “*It doesn’t really matter what you believe, as long as you’re honest and sincere in it*” then how does “Truth” have any credibility, cf. John 12:48; 1John 2:3?

The Bible says that the grace of God is applied through the instructions of Truth, Titus 2:11-12. Instructions only yield the proper result if followed in obedience. If “honesty and sincerity” will supplant obedience, as demanded by this false premise, this passage has absolutely no plausible meaning!

Jesus denies neither the “honesty” nor the “sincerity” of those depicted in Matt.7:21-23. Instead, He just says, “*I never knew you*” despite their claims of v.22. He said previously in this text (vv.15-20) that we will be known by our “*fruits*”- not our *honesty* or *sincerity*. See also 1John 3:10 and answer this one question: Who determines “righteousness”- you and me, or God? This “righteousness” must be, and allowed to be, determined by God through the medium He chose to reveal it to mankind- His Word, Rom.1:17.

Conclusion:

If those who claim to believe in the God of the Bible are ever united, it will be because we:

- 1. Unite in the conviction that the Bible is God’s Word;**
- 2. Stop making Truth *relative* and *subjective*; and**
- 3. Decide that Truth, and obedience to it, matter.**

Then, and only then, can we be united and saved.