

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Jesse and Susie (Burdall) Riddle who were recently united in marriage. We rejoice with them and pray that they will have many years of health and happiness together in service to God.

Pray For The Sick And Afflicted:

Delores Hendrickson
Judy Coley (upcoming surgical procedure)
Teddy Burgess (friend of Evelyn Murphy)
Ken and Sherrie Roosa's son-in-law Darryl (surgery for colon cancer)
Dean Cook
Iris Hash
Randy Murray (Cindy Murray's husband)
Jimmy Lindsey's friend at the group home
Zachary Baxter (Susie Burdall's grandson, deployed in the U.S. Navy)
Edwin Parnell (Mike Parnell's brother, cancer)

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Goldie Gilbert, Al and Gertrude Reynolds

Pray For The Mission Work That We Support:

John Grubb (mission work in Asia)
Charles DiPalma (mission work in Australia and New Zealand)
Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies

Pray For Our Upcoming Events:

September Fish Fry – Our annual fish fry will be held on Saturday, September 28th at the Martinsville Jimmy Nash City Park, shelter house No. 5, at 5:00 PM. If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in back of the auditorium.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner – Due to the late September fish fry there will be no pitch-in dinner for the month of October.

Men's Business Meeting – The next men's business meeting will be held on Sunday, October 6th at 5:00 PM. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

Students' Visit From NW Florida School of Biblical Studies – Brother Guyton Montgomery and some students from the Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies will worship with us on Sunday evening, November 3. One of the students will deliver the evening message in the absence of brother Bob who will be preaching at the Stop 11 congregation. Following the evening service, a pitch-in meal will be provided in honor of our visitors. More information to follow.

Fall Gospel Meeting – Our fall gospel meeting will be held November 8 – 10 with brother Sidney White. Additional details to follow. Please pray for our meeting.

God's Plan For Our Salvation:

1. **Hearing** the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. **Believing** what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. **Repentance** (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. **Confession** (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. **Baptism** (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3,4).
6. After the above five steps, **Faithful Christian Living** (I Peter 2:11, 12; Revelation 2:10).

September 22, 2019

MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**540 E. Morgan Street
Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-6027**



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study – 7:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March – October)

Radio Program:

“Preparing For Eternity”

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

THE UNITY CHRIST DEMANDS #1

Garland M. Robinson

Can you imagine Peter being a Methodist, James a Catholic, John a Baptist, Andrew a Pentecostal, Philip a Lutheran, Thomas a Jehovah's Witness, Bartholomew a Unitarian, Matthew a Mennonite, James the son of Alphaeus a Mormon, Simon a Seventh Day Adventist, Judas a Presbyterian, Paul an Episcopalian and Matthias a member of the Deliverance House of Prayer?

Unity is such a sweet, pleasant, appealing, relaxing word. It summons to mind the oneness, harmony and fellowship of agreement. It allows its participants to walk together in one accord. Amos was inspired to ask the children of Israel: "*Can two walk together, except they be agreed*" ([Amos 3:3](#))?

Our Lord Jesus the Christ prayed for unity among his disciples the night before his death ([John 17:20-21](#)). Shall we not work to fulfill our Savior's dying prayer? Oh yes, we must do our part to not only bring about unity, but to maintain it as well. Does your life promote unity or division?

DIVISION

The world is filled with division of all kinds. Especially is this so in the realm of religion. No one knows the exact count of religions in the world because it changes almost daily. It numbers into the thousands. A "Good House Keeping" article of more than 40 years ago listed 1,200 different churches in the United States. Imagine what that number would be today. The Lord never prayed for thousands, nor hundreds, nor even 2 or 3. He prayed for ONE and only ONE. He died for ONE and only ONE. He will save ONE and only ONE. Man thinks he can help the Lord by multiplying thousands of choices so people can choose the one they like best.

People are confused and rightly so. Man says, "join the church of your choice," or "one church is as good as another." However, God says differently. The Lord does not give man a choice of religions or churches. It is true that one denomination is as good as another because Jesus did not die for denominations. However, it is not true that one church is as good as another. The Bible clearly shows there is only "one body" ([Eph. 4:4](#)). The "one body" is the church ([Eph. 1:22-23](#); [Col. 1:18](#)). There is only "one faith" ([Eph. 4:5](#)). God does not and never has given man a choice of "many bodies" or "many faiths."

Men are often fond of the word denomination because it gives them a choice. However, the word "denomination" is an ugly, repulsive word when applied to religion. It is contrary to Bible teaching from beginning to end. The word means: "a value or size of a series of values or sizes (as of money)." Each piece of change in your pocket is a denomination of a dollar. It is only a part of the dollar. Denomination means divided, division, many, multiple. Not even one denomination is authorized by God because he did not die for division.

The church Jesus died for to establish (cf. [Acts 20:28](#)) is not a part of something greater. It is not a part of the whole. The church of Christ is the whole itself. It is the pillar and ground of the truth ([1 Tim. 3:15](#)). It, and it alone, is the means through which God has chosen to make His manifold wisdom known unto the world ([Eph. 3:10](#)). It is God's eternal purpose ([Eph. 3:11](#)) even as Jesus was slain before the foundation of the world ([1 Peter 1:20](#)). The church, not a denomination, brings glory to God ([Eph. 3:21](#)). It is composed of the saved because God adds the saved to it ([Acts 2:41,47](#)). It is made up of the redeemed ([Titus 2:14](#)) and will be presented unto the Lord without blemish or spot at the last day ([Eph. 5:27](#); [Col. 1:22](#)).

GOD HATES DIVISION

The Old and New Testaments alike clearly show God's hatred of division. [Proverbs 6:16-19](#) lists seven things God hates. Among them is "...he that soweth discord among brethren." The New Testament tells us to

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"...mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" ([Rom. 16:17-18](#)). Paul warned Timothy of Hymenaeus, Alexander and Philetus ([1 Tim. 1:20](#); [2 Tim. 2:17](#)). They were "trouble makers" who divided brethren. The Judaizing teachers spoken of in Acts 15 were condemned because they taught contrary to the right way of the Lord. They had made a law God did not make. They were dividing brethren.

God is not pleased with all the confusion and division concerning man's ideas with his creeds, councils, synods and conferences. He desires such man-made organizations to be done away with and for all men to be united by simply following His perfect Word.

The apostles were not members of different denominations in the first century. Nor were any Christians members of conflicting religious groups. Can you imagine Peter being a Methodist, James a Catholic, John a Baptist, Andrew a Pentecostal, Philip a Lutheran, Thomas a Jehovah's Witness, Bartholomew a Unitarian, Matthew a Mennonite, James the son of Alphaeus a Mormon, Simon a Seventh Day Adventist, Judas a Presbyterian, Paul an Episcopalian and Matthias a member of the Deliverance House of Prayer? This may seem comical to suggest such, but that is exactly what men advocate. Every religious group thinks everyone else should be just like them, but even though they're not, they still think they're saved. Figure that one out!

Here's a good question. Ask those who are members of a denomination, "do I have to be a member of your denomination to be saved?" They will generally answer "No." The follow-up question to ask is this, "then why does the denomination you're a member of exist?"

GOD DESIRES UNITY

Unity originated with God. He is its source. "*For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints*" ([1 Cor. 14:33](#)). There was unity at the creation ([Gen. 1-2](#)). The Bible is the book of unity (cf. [2 Tim. 3:16-17](#); [James 1:25](#); [Psalm 19:7](#)). To be faithful to God we must contend for the unity He demands.

The Lord's prayer in [John 17:20-21](#) was for unity. Unity is defined as: "one, unanimity, agreement." Concerning His apostles Jesus said, "*Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*" We all should work to bring about the unity for which our Lord prayed. The only way this is possible is to do away with all of man's ideas and embrace the pure and unadulterated Word of God. There will never be the unity God desires until this is done.

Everything Jesus worked for and prayed for was that his disciples be united. But the only way unity is possible is when it's based upon the Gospel, the Truth. Jesus said, "*...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" ([John 8:31-32](#)). "*Buy the truth, and sell it not...*" ([Prov. 23:23](#)). "*Love the truth*" ([Zech. 8:19](#)). Believers are to "*...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*" ([Jude 3](#)). "*...Be not moved away from the hope of the gospel...*" ([Col. 1:23](#)).

The standard of unity is the eternal book of God — the Bible. All men everywhere, Christian and non-Christian, are amenable to the Law of Christ — every word of the Law of Christ. None are exempt (cf. [Gal. 6:2](#); [1 Cor. 9:21](#)). The Law of Christ is the Truth ([John 17:17](#); [8:32](#)), the Gospel ([Rom. 1:16](#)), the Faith ([Jude 3](#); [Acts 6:7](#); [13:7,8](#)), sound Doctrine ([Titus 1:9](#); [2:1](#)) and the Doctrine of Christ ([2 John 9-11](#)).

Those who do not care about embracing the Truth and abiding by the unity it brings, will receive the condemnation of God. "*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness*" ([2 Thess. 2:10-12](#)).

Do you love the Truth? Have you Obeyed the Truth? Are you Contending for the Truth? It's the only way to heaven.