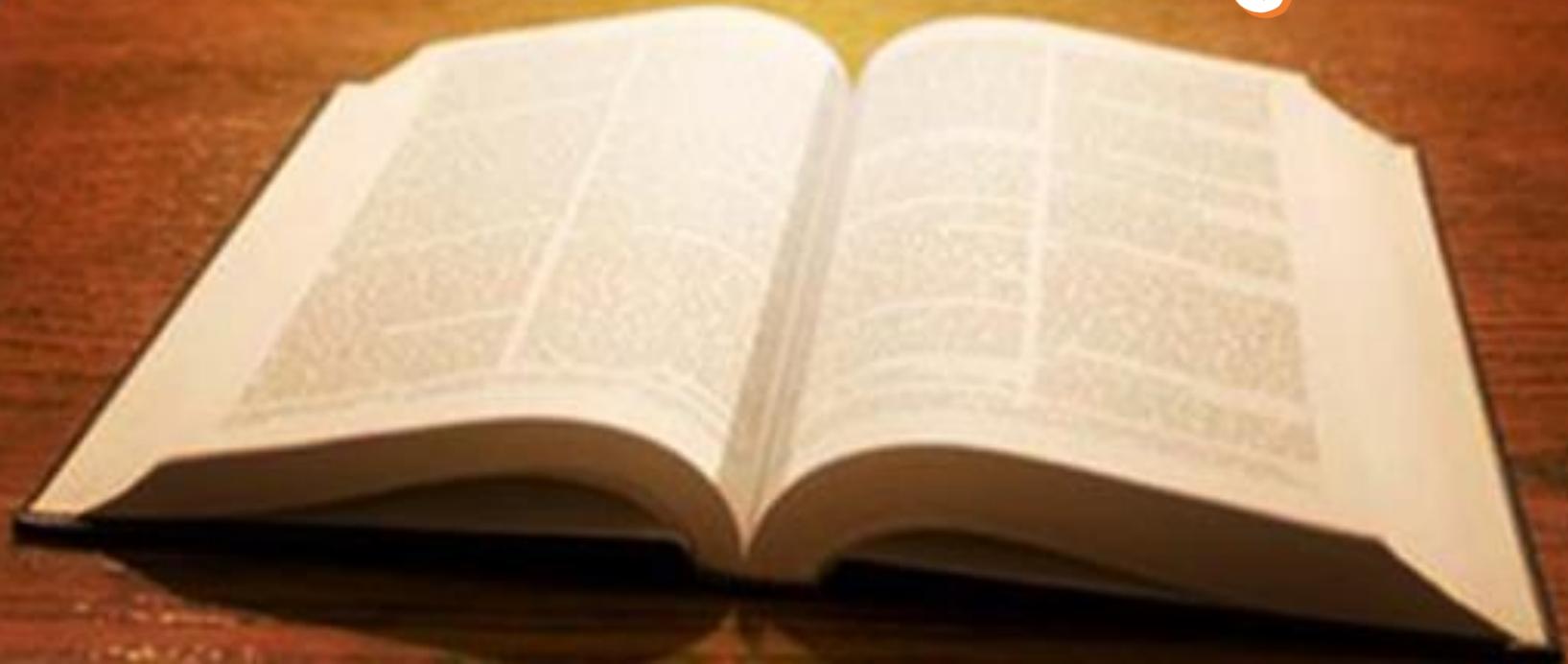


# THE SERMON

## *Unity and Eating in the Building*



# Unity



1 Tim 3:15 The FAMILY of God is the CHURCH of the living God. NIRV

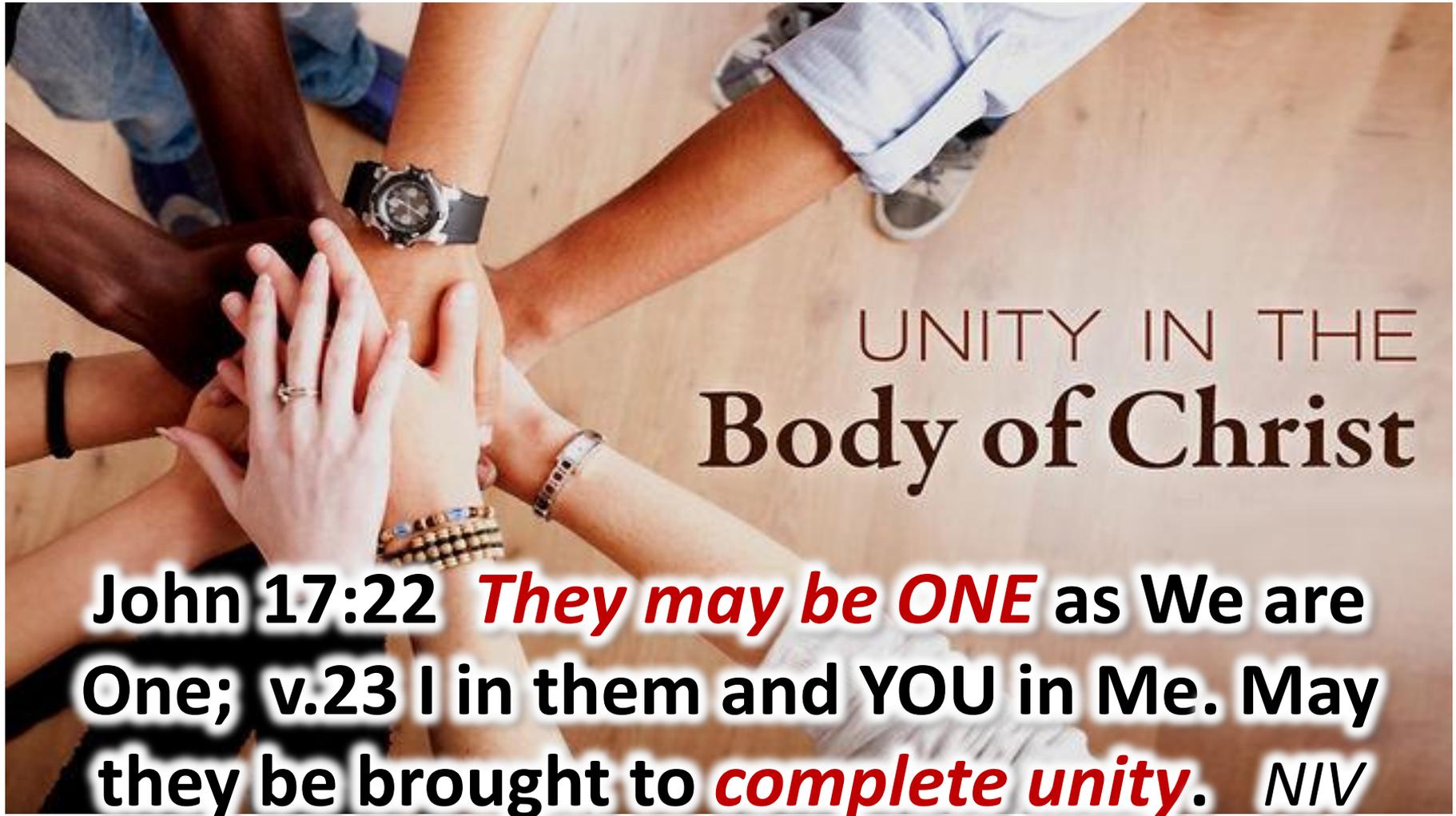
# *Blessing* of Unity

**How good and  
pleasant it is  
when God's people  
live together in unity!**



**Psalm 133:1**

# *Prayer* for Unity



UNITY IN THE  
**Body of Christ**

John 17:22 *They may be ONE* as We are One; v.23 I in them and YOU in Me. May they be brought to *complete unity*. NIV

# 100's of Questions Church Could Ask



How many classes a week 2 OR 12?

What times to meet am/pm?

Length of sermons?

Songs to sing?

Preachers to support?

Elder's tenure: 2 yrs or Life?

Buy or Rent a Building?

Crosses & stained glass?

Use Bible pics or not?



What Uses of the Building?

1 Pet 4:11 Speak as the Oracles of God !

# **What's Bible Authority?**

***Not Feelings (Prov 28:26) A Fool !***

***Not Majority (Mat 7:13) Often wrong !***

***Not Conscience (Acts 23:1f) What I believe!***

***Not Man's wisdom (1 Cor 3:19) Foolish !***

***Not Leader (Mat 15:9) Precept of men !***

2 Tim 3:16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; v17 that the man of God may be adequate, ***equipped for Every Good Work.***"

# *What are Love Feasts? Jude 12*



Only NT Occurrence: (Jude 12) “These men are those who are hidden reefs in your **love feasts** when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; *clouds without water... trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted.*”



# Where Did Saints Eat the "Love Feast" ?

Acts 2:46 "Breaking bread from **house to house** taking their meals with gladness ..."



# What was the Purpose of the Love Feast”?

## Christian Charity, Benevolence

James 2:15 “If a brother or sister is ... in need”

“The purpose of the love feast was to *share God's provisions with the needy.*”

*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary.*

“A common table at which the wants of *the poor were supplied* out of the abundance of the rich.” ISBE

“The *sharing of food by the wealthier with the poorer* was an important means of charity.” *Early Christians Speak*, p 129.



# When was the "Love Feast" Held ?



**“The Roman governor Pliny places the Christian gathering for a common meal at a separate time from their ‘stated’ religious assemblies.”**

Early Christians Speak p.127.

*Pliny’s Letters; Book 10.96, addressed to Emperor Trajan*

**“It occurred in the late afternoon or early evening, the time of the principle meal of the day.” Early Christians speak, p.129**

# Abuse of the "Love Feast"

“The meal known as the love feast continued for several centuries. However, at times it became merely ...a lavish banquet for the wealthy.”

*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*



**(1Cor 11:20) “In your eating each one takes his own supper first, one is hungry another is drunk.”**

**“It was a time when the poorer believers could enjoy a decent meal because of the generosity of the Christians who were better off economically. But the apostates only used the "love feast" as a time for displaying their wealth.” —BEC.**

# The "Love Feast" Abandoned.

"**Freemen** despised the **slave class**, going ahead with the meal before the latter had opportunity to arrive .. The **wealthy** scorned the **poor**, feasting to the point of gluttony while the latter went hungry (1Cor.11: 21-22)." *Zondervan Pictorial Bible*

"After much controversy in the church, **it was finally abolished at the end of the seventh century.**" *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*

This benevolent meal was **NEVER an apostolic command**, but simply one way to help feed poor Christians.

# *Most Churches Eat in the Building— Why?*



**A *Nursery*** for Moms to feed their babies during ***worship***.

*Ideally there is a **monitor** to see the lesson presented and a **speaker** with volume control to hear it.*

***The purpose isn't recreation—but **worship**.***

# *Most Churches Eat in the Building— Why ?*



***Christians***  
eating lunch  
to create,  
maintain,  
repair their  
***place to***  
***worship.***  
**(Heb 10:25)**

# *Most Churches Eat in the Building— Why ?*

*Preacher, Teacher*  
preparing  
*to edify.*

Acts 20:7, 11 “When *he* [Paul] had gone back up, and had broken the bread and *eaten*, he talked with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.”

*Paul alone* is mentioned as eating, late night.

# ***Might Eat in the Building— Why ?***



***Providing  
Benevolence in  
an emergency***

**Matt 9:13 "But go and learn what this means, '***I desire compassion, & not sacrifice***'"**

# *Saints **Eat** in the Church Building— **But Why?***



*Kids **EAT** cheerios, candy in church, or **diabetic** needs something to keep blood sugar at the right level.*

This *isn't* done for recreation but to help kids and adults stay in **worship**.

**It's NOT** Doughnuts, cake and Starbucks coffee ... just for fun. (*See* Rom 14:17)

# *Saints Eat in the Church Building— But Why?*

**A *Gymnasium* / Fellowship Hall is generally NOT intended as *Charity for Needy saints!* (Rom 15:26)**

**It probably wasn't built as provision *for Destitute Widows.* (Acts 6:1)**

**John 6:26 “Truly, I say to you, you seek Me, *not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled.*”**

# Are Church - Sponsored **Social Meals** Biblical Fellowship?

**Analysis:** Bible “Fellowship” KOINONIA is ***Never Denotes*** social / recreational – **ALWAYS** spiritual activities.

(1 Cor 1:9) “***Fellowship*** with **Son**”

(1 Cor 10:16) “***Share*** **blood of Christ**”

(Gal 2:9) “***fellowship*** [to] **go to the gentiles.**”

(1 John 1:3) “Our ***fellowship*** is with the **Father.**”

(Philemon 6) “the ***fellowship*** of your **faith.**”

(Philip 3:10) “The ***fellowship*** of His **sufferings.**”

(Philip 2:1) “If there is any ***fellowship*** of the **Spirit.**”

(Philip 1:5) “Your ***participation*** in the **gospel.**”

# *For **Unity** We act in **Love***

1 Cor 10:23 “*All things are lawful*, but not  
I things are profitable. All things are  
lawful, but not all things edify.

Col 3:13 “*Bearing* with one another, and  
*forgiving* each other...”

v14 And beyond all these things *put on*  
*LOVE*, which is the perfect *BOND OF UNITY*.