



Why Unity in Christ?

Dear Friend in Jesus! On Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 5:20 pm, I (Steven Masood) received the following message from one of my sisters: "Although you are not part of the family Mahmoud desired to let u know that he died at peace in Christ. He tried to reach you from Basil. It seems you polluted his mind too. We were shocked when he asked for a Christian funeral. I did not let my husband know this and we did everything our Islamic way. Be happy while we mourn realizing that you and Mahmoud will be in hell. Mahmoud died due to his injuries in accident. It's so upsetting that you are not only an apostate but you are causing others to go to hell too. May Allah take you soon we have enough of your garbage." [sic]

Can this be the reason for unity in Christ: to bring people of the world to Jesus, because God so loves the world (John 3:16)?

Can we be unified in order to proclaim the Savior of the lost (Luke 19:10) in both words and deeds, so that the world may know Jesus through us (John 17:21)?

Obedying Jesus Christ's commands (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8) often divides biological families, as Jesus warned it would in Matthew 10:21-39. Please keep my biological family in your prayers, that they too may know the amazing peace Jesus Christ gives (John 14:27) and the beautiful unity we have in Him. I am so thankful that my brother Mahmoud became my brother in Christ and that we will see him someday in Heaven!

As Jesus with the Father is one, He also desires us to be one in His name (John 17). Sadly, the Church today is divided due to many different issues, including details that do not matter and issues that are more denominational than Biblical. We need to ask, why did Jesus pray for unity in His followers? So the world would know Him.

Unity is encouraged in many movements. For example, Imam Akhtar Muhammad Mansoor, the new Afghan Taliban leader, urges his fighters to do the following: "We should keep our unity, we must be united, our enemy will be happy in our separation." "This is not the work of one, two or three people. This is all our responsibility to carry on jihad until we establish the Islamic state."

If even enemies understand that unity is important, how much more should UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST be important to us? God Almighty is Emanuel. He promises to be with us forever! We have already won the war so why shouldn't we believe we can WIN the battles here on earth - for the sake of SOULS to be SAVED? This is not a battle against flesh and blood; this is in the spiritual realm. We have the full armor of God that He provides (Ephesians 6:10-20). Why are we not using it? Or are we truly in COMMUNION with GOD? Do we BELIEVE the Covenant promises of the Rhema (Word of God) as it is written? Who are we anyways? As spiritual soldiers under the Creator of the universe, who can be against us (Romans 8:31)? We are "more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

In unity, let us invite to Jesus the people who are captive to the strongholds of religion, fear, lies, materialism, pride, captive to the strongholds of alcohol, cigarettes, legal or illegal drugs, porn, adultery, abortion, cutting, self-pity, unworthiness, self-loathing, unbelief, anger, bitterness, double-mindedness, immorality, homosexuality, controlling spirits, generational curses, stealing, and all ungodliness.

Our God is True, Holy, Pure, Just, Merciful, Covenant keeping, Healing, Forgiving and Loving! He has Amazing Grace and Salvation (Jesus) for His creation. With God on our side, we are victorious in spiritual unity with Him! Let us therefore unite in Christ to reach the lost souls, including Muslims, for Him!

While reaching Muslims with the Good News (the Gospel), please remember that every person is different; every situation requires its own approach. Avoid sensationalism. Spend time with a Muslim. While talk about terrorism is more interesting than the mundane side of Islam, remember that many Muslims are horrified of the ways of Daish (ISIS) and other Muslim terrorist organizations. Many Muslims are not aware of the militancy in Islam, including in the Qur'an and Ahadith (Islamic traditions). Hatred, bitterness, "Islamophobia", objectifying others -- these are not

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Many of our e-mails sent to you come back due to change in your e-mail address.

Please send us your recent e-mail address so we may correct our *record*.

Christian virtues. When we fail to see others as fellow humans, it's easy to misrepresent, blame, horribly desire them harm or simply avoid them. A personal relationship with someone of another faith goes a long way in breaking down barriers.

As Christ followers, we are called to proclaim the faith, defending Jesus Christ with our intellect and, if need be, our lives (Revelation 12:11) with the help of the Holy Spirit. In proclaiming Jesus Christ, it is important to do so with love and respect (1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:23-26). Part of respect includes understanding the cost to becoming a Christian for most Muslims. It can be way more costly than the ostracism of the man in John 9. Most Muslims are part of closely-knit families and communities. Conversion often means

disinheritance. It certainly means loss of friends. In many places it means automatic incarceration, if not execution.

Can we be willing to become a friend, a parent, a family of such a Muslim or Muslims? I thank God that a family always was there to help me. In my local church there is a young ex-Muslim who accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. A loving Christian family is always there for him. He has Christian friends who encourage him as well. In this country there are many people (not just Muslims) who experience loneliness and so-called modernism. Can we as followers of Christ open the doors of our heart to them? Can we be unified in order to proclaim the Savior of the lost (Luke 19:10) to them in both words and deeds, so that the world may know Jesus through us (John 17:21)? This is the reason for unity in Christ: to bring people of the world to Jesus, because God so loves the world (John 3:16).

PRAYER AND PRAISE POINTS

- ❖ We praise God for opening the doors through Satellite as well as on the internet to reach Urdu speaking Muslims in Pakistan & India with the Gospel.
- ❖ We thank the Lord for the popularity of these programs watched through zindagitv.com
- ❖ We have added further articles in the Urdu section on our itl-usa.org website for Muslims. Please pray with us that the articles in Urdu and the 15 minute video series will be used by the Lord to open the hearts of many Muslims to accept the only way to paradise— Jesus, the only assurance.
- ❖ We thank the Lord who is still doing miracles in the lives of Muslims, including those who read, listen and watch programs with hardened hearts. We pray that a moment of realization will come and they will embrace Jesus as their Lord.
- ❖ We pray for boldness in the face of all opposition to reveal that Jesus is the only way and unity of the body so the whole world will know Christ.
- ❖ Apart from other commitments, Steven is teaching a 12 week course on *Mission: Past and Present*. Pray with us that several will know why it is important to share the gospel and will witness to others locally and abroad.
- ❖ We pray for financial providence in order to reprint 13 evangelistic leaflets in English, print them in Spanish for Spanish-speaking Muslims, publish Steven's next book, *Islam: A Biblical Understanding* and Karen's book, *Marriage Preparation for Eternity*.
- ❖ **A great door of effective works is open (1 Cor 16:9). We pray for more workers to join us in outreach as God leads them. We need your prayers and support. Through your help, Muslims are being reached for Christ even in the darkest places of spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:12).**

JESUS TO MUSLIMS: FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Jesus to Muslims relies solely on God through the generosity of our donors: to reach Muslims with the Gospel, to expand our outreach, to hold seminars to equip Christians, as well as to research and publish material for truth seekers.

We thank God for the extra support so far this year from some. Our prayer is that in 2015 the Lord will replenish the funds in excess over last year according to His will!

Funds in total received:

June 2015: \$11,326.00

July 2015: \$08,011.00

Monthly Need is \$15,000

We praise God for his providence.

If you are mailing your gift, please use the envelope provided.

For online giving, please go to: www.JesusToMuslims.org and click on "Support". Donations are tax deductible.