

PURPOSE- EVANGELISM PLEA-UNITY

It would seem sometimes that the congregations of our era and indeed the Christian society itself has lost the two great desires of our leader, Jesus Christ. Jesus prayer for us was that we be One so that the world may know God had sent Him.

How tragic, though, that many of our churches overlook the world that needs to know, allowing their focus to be only on the local programs and pouring the majority of their money and human resources into areas where people have heard at the expense of those areas that need to hear the message.

At the same time, we see a Christian message, shredded by many divisions, distractions, and denominational loyalties, the world hardly would recognize the simple message of Jesus Christ. The early Restoration movement leaders gave three propositions that are valuable to us today as we contemplate the situation. (1) Evangelism of the world is the main purpose of the church (2) Christian unity will cure denominational divisions that hinder evangelism. (3) Christian unity will be produced by a return to the ancient order, a restoration of the New Testament church and its teaching in the Bible.

Unfortunately, many churches wear human names, create the idea the leaders of many groups have special revelation from God, denying that Jesus was God's last word.

They create new more convenient ways of "What must I do to be saved?" The popular method, invite Jesus into your life and repeat the so-called 'Sinners prayer.' Not one mention of such a path to salvation is in the Scripture. If we can't unite on what to tell the world to do to come to salvation in Christ, we can never fulfill the purpose of unity nor the winning of the world to Christ. The restoration of the first gospel message of Pentecost can bring all sincere followers together, when Peter told the crowd in response to their question, What shall we do? He replied, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you for the forgiveness of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.' Acts 2:38

No other mandate for salvation was given by the early apostles or the church that negates this simple message. When you have believed you should turn your life around (repent) confess Jesus and be buried (immersed) into Him in baptism. His blood covers are sins and we rise to walk in a new life. You will receive remission of your sins and the precious gift of the Holy Spirit in your life, the mark of the Christian. As you accepted God's grace in offering this forgiveness through your obedient faith, you are created then for a life of service and work for Him, in carrying the message to the nations.