

THE POWER OF ONE

February 9, 2014 Various Texts by Bob Branch
Blessed To Be A Blessing, Part 11

MAIN IDEA: Today I want to explore the concept of biblical oneness as one of the most transforming and powerful things on the earth. **Biblical Oneness is powerful and transforming.**

“they become one flesh.” **Genesis 2:24** (see 11:6)

“united as one man.” **Judges 20:11** (Ezra 3:1; Neh. 8:1)

“...that they may be one as we are one.” **John 17:11** (10:16, 30)

“Live in harmony with one another.” **Romans 12:16**

“to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.” **Ephesians 1:10** ESV

“For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body...” **Ephesians 2:14-16** NLT (4:4-6)

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

1. Oneness is ULTIMATE to God.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” **Ephesians 4:3** (Rom. 12:18; 2 Cor. 5:18-21)

2. Oneness is a CONDUIT for the kingdom of heaven.

“All the believers were one in heart and mind... there were no needy persons among them.” **Acts 4:32-35**

3. Oneness is the EVIDENCE of the kingdom come.

John 13:35

Acts 2:42-47

4. Oneness is powerful in REVEALING JESUS, his kingdom, love and salvation.

“...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me... I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” **John 17:21, 23**

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US IN PRACTICE?

¹ **Oneness is an assault on our fierce individuality.** Change worldview, the way we think. (Heb. 10:25)

² **Oneness means we give up something of ourselves to be part of something greater, and it is totally worth it.** (Acts 4:35f)

³ **Oneness can be so powerful that the enemy will do anything to stop it.** (Eph. 4:26-27)

⁴ **Oneness means God will consistently call us to take practical steps further into community.**

Daily practice of **Oneness with God**

Oneness **with your spouse...** Oneness **in our families.**

Oneness in **involvement in a local church.**

Join a **group** and connect

Get involved in **serving** together

Get an **accountability** partner, confess your sins

Give something valuable to you to someone in need.

Start seeing others as **intrinsically valuable.**

Repent of bitterness, resentment & unforgiveness

Be **reconciled**, humble yourself, apologize

Adopt a **no-tattling policy**, preserve unity, redirect...

Watch how you **talk** about others.

Invite **someone new over**, and make friends.

Commit to **not missing church** each week.

Come to serve and minister to others.