

# **“A United Congregation”**

## **John 17:13-23**

### Introduction

- I. A local congregation is filled with different people from different backgrounds.
- II. It is the will of God that a congregation have unity amongst members (Gal. 3:26-29; Eph. 2:10-22; Act 2:46; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:3; Phil. 2:2; Psm. 133:1).
- III. Let us notice some things that will help a congregation be united.

### Discussion

- I. A congregation needs to be united in truth (John 17:17).
  - A. The only standard that the church has for knowing the will of God is the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
  - B. Nothing, including our opinions, should allow us to deviate from what the Bible says and teaches (1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 1:27; cf. Phil. 2:3-4).
- II. A congregation needs to be united as brethren (Gen. 13:8).
  - A. “Power struggles” within a congregation only bring troubles (Mark 10:35-45).
  - B. Even elders, as they oversee, must do their parts to promote unity as brethren (1 Pet. 5:1-4).
- III. A congregation needs to be united against sin (1 John 3:4; 5:17).
  - A. Sin cannot be tolerated (1 Cor. 5:1-13).
  - B. Those who are destroying congregational unity must be marked and avoided (Rom. 16:17-18).

### Conclusion

- I. It is a sad commentary on a congregation when there is a lack of unity.
- II. Each member should be doing his part to promote the unity that God desires (Eph. 4:3).