



Oneness in Christ Lesson 4 4Q 2018 The Key to Unity

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

Read memory text: “Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.”
Eph 1:9,10 NKJV

What is a mystery? Something hidden? Not understood? Not known?

And what is this mystery, this thing that was not known or understood?

That the universe will be unified by Jesus—He will be the one who brings us all into unity as we unite with Him.

Are there other mysteries in the Bible?

- Daniel chapter 2 Nebuchadnezzar has a dream:
 - ²⁷ Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the **mystery** he has asked about, ²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals **mysteries**. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these:
 - ²⁹ “As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of **mysteries** showed you what is going to happen. ³⁰ As for me, this **mystery** has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.
 - What was this mystery that was revealed to the king through Daniel?
- “**In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed**, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ This is the meaning of the vision of the **rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands**—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. vs 44-45.
 - What was the mystery revealed? All the universe being brought back into unity through the Rock, and that Rock is who? Jesus Christ—this is the same mystery that Paul is talking about.
- Romans 11:25,26: “I do not want you to be ignorant of this **mystery**, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved...”



- What is this mystery? Bringing Jews and Gentiles together into one group of unified saved—the same mystery.
- Romans 16:25-27: “Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **mystery hidden for long ages past**,²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that **all nations might believe and obey him**—
 - What is this mystery? Bringing all nations into unity—the same mystery.
- 1Cor 15:51-52: “Listen, I tell you a **mystery**: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”
 - What is this mystery?
 - The fulfillment of restoring this creation back to perfection and thus bringing us back into unity with the rest of the universe—the same mystery—just a little more detail
- Ephesians 3:2-6: “Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you,³ that is, the **mystery** made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the **mystery** of Christ,⁵ which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets.⁶ **This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.**”
 - What mystery? The same mystery—bringing all back into unity through Christ!
- Ephesians 5:25-33: “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body.³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”³² **This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.**”
 - What mystery? Bringing all people back into unity or oneness with Christ as Jesus prayed in John 17—the same mystery!
- Col 1:26-27: “the **mystery** that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this **mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”
 - What mystery? Unity in Christ and does this text give any further insight into how we all become unified? By Christ coming to dwell in our hearts as the one most loved, trusted, adored, and whom we long to be like, and of whose character we partake!

So what is the mystery of God? God’s plan and actions to remove sin, selfishness, lies, corruption, and all deviations from His perfect design of love and restore His character of love, methods of truth and freedom into the hearts and minds of all who trust Him, thus bringing us into genuine unity with him and the unfallen universe.



Do you agree? Then consider this text:

- Revelation 10:7: **“But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”**
 - What is the mystery? God’s plan to unify us!
 - What does this text add?
 - When in human history is this time period? Now!

And what is it that is required to bring us into unity?

The truth about God that wins to trust resulting in hearts that open and invite in the Holy Spirit who comes with the power of God to recreate and restore filling us with God’s love and reproducing in us the character of Christ!

It is NOT unity of thought—it is unity of heart, affection, love, principle, motive, method.

We **can** be unified in Christ and still differ on:

- Our understanding of Revelation
- On what day we attend church
- On how we are ceremonially baptized
- On what Bible version we read
- On how we partake communion
- On what foods we eat
- On how we dress

But we **cannot** be united in Christ if we are selfish in character and driven by fear.

What incites fear and selfishness? Believing lies about God!

Thus, the theologies that cause us to mistrust God, to live in fear of God, to utilize the methods of this selfish world to punish and coerce others into conformity cause division, fragmentation, and undermine God’s plan.

We, at this time in earth’s history have a message—a message powerful, healing, ennobling, triumphant—a message to lighten the world, to dispel the darkness, to free hearts and minds, to bring people back into unity with God through Christ—it is the message of the three angels, to worship Him who made the heavens and earth, sea and fountains of waters—to worship the Designer and to come out of the worldly system of Babylon with its imposed laws and reject the imperial dictator views of God!

This means we must reject the imperial human law construct with the lie of penal substitution and the false legal interpretations that cause division and prevent the mystery of God from being realized in



our lives today.

- What is another word for bringing us into unity? Atonement—
- And what time in history are we living? The antitypical day of atonement—
- And what is another symbolic way of teaching this mystery of bringing us all into unity? The sanctuary message—
- And what is the cleansing of the sanctuary, which is to happen before the Feast of Tabernacles, before we live with God in an earth made new? It is the cleansing of our hearts and minds, the mystery of God, restoring us back into His perfect design, bringing us back into oneness with Him!

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “The followers of Jesus...” “In Christ we have been adopted...” What does “In Christ” mean?

I think it has two meanings both of which are true, depending on how the phrase is used:

- In the person of Jesus Christ, in His own victory as the second Adam the species human was fixed, restored to perfection and now stands in God’s presence. So in Jesus we, the species human, are restored to God’s family.
- In unity with Jesus Christ, we as individuals can be in Christ by being united in heart, mind, attitude, love, desire, method, motive. We are in oneness with Him, as Jesus prayed in John 17. Thus as individuals we are restored to God’s family.

What of the idea of adoption? Is this a legal process or some other process that is actual, literal, real and not a legal declaration?

- What is the difference between legal and real?
- We can pass laws to make tobacco legal, we cannot pass laws to make it healthy
- If we passed a law in a country that said one race or people were not fully human, but were subhuman (perhaps the laws passed by the Nazi’s in Germany about the Jews, or Jim Crow laws in America) does that make it real?

What is adoption? The act of adopting—what does it mean to adopt?

Its most fundamental meaning, from which the act of adopting a child comes, is: “to choose or take as one’s own; make one’s own by selection or assent.”

i.e. John adopted the nickname JJ...

Adopt means to make something one’s own by specifically choosing to do so.

So, what then would it mean to be adopted by God?



That after Adam and Eve chose to break their unity with God and alienate themselves in heart, mind, character, God, through Christ, chose to take humanity (the species human) back as His own, to make it is own. How?

Jesus *adopted* humanity when He became incarnate. He didn't simply appear as a human, he became human—He adopted humanity as part of His being for all eternity! Think about it! And He fixed what Adam did to humanity thus Jesus restored the species human back into God's original design! Humanity became God's own by God's choice to adopt humanity in the person of Jesus.

Do we have an individual part to play in our personal adoption as sons and daughters of God? While God, through Christ, adopted humanity when Christ became incarnate, we must adopt (personally assent or choose to make our own) the new heart and right spirit freely offered us by God through Christ.

So, is this adoption a legal action or an actual chosen experience by both God and the saved?

Consider these quotes by one of the founders of the SDA church:

The principles of heaven are to be adopted and practiced by those who claim to walk in the Saviour's footsteps. . . . {Counsels on Health 528.1}

What is described? That we adopt, by our choice, the principles of heaven. Hmmm is this part of being adopted into the family of God?

If we wish to be adopted into the family of God, to become children of the heavenly King, we must comply with His conditions; [Does this indicate that for us as individuals it is not a legal declaration by God in heaven? What are the conditions?] we must come out from the world and stand as a peculiar people before the Lord, obeying His precepts and serving Him. {4T 109.4} [What does this mean obeying His precepts? Which law lens do you hear it through? It simply means choosing to agree and trust God and living in harmony with His design, i.e. being part of the family of beings that love God and others.]

God wants every child of tender age to be his child, to be adopted into his family. Young though they may be, **the youth may be members of the household of faith**, and have the most precious experience. **They may have hearts that are tender**, and ready to receive lasting impressions. **Their hearts may be drawn out in confidence and love for Jesus, and they may live for the Saviour.** Christ will make them little missionaries. **The whole current of their thoughts may be changed, so that sin will not appear a thing to be enjoyed, but to be hated and shunned . . .** {The Southern Review July 18, 1899 par. 5}

What is being described? A legal process or a transforming process in the intelligent being?

When we understand God as Creator and His laws as the laws upon which all life is built, then we see



clearly the beauty God has for us and understand accurately the meaning of what the Bible is teaching. But when we read the Bible through the false human law lens the truth about God is obscured.

At the end of the third paragraph the lesson states, “God does not use coercion to save anyone.”

This is well said, absolutely true and without exception. With this truth in mind what ideas can we know are wrong in Christianity?

- Any idea that has God using His power to inflict punishment for sin
- Any idea that is coercive is contrary to God’s nature and character and a result of the false human law construct.
- God is required by holiness or justice to use power to inflict pain, suffering and death for sin
- Jesus died to pay a legal penalty
- God will torture people in hell
- God is the source of pain, suffering and death
- We need someone to stand between us and God to protect us from God
- Such ideas obstruct trust, incite fear, oppose love and damage minds, hearts, characters and relationships and increase fragmentation and division.

If we reject all the false legal, imperial and punishing views of God does that mean there is no punishment for sin, that all will be saved? No! Why?

- sin pays its wage and the wage is death Rom 6:23
- Is there a punishment for jumping off a tall building?
- Is there a punishment for smoking cigarettes?
- Is there a punishment for abusing drugs?
- Is there a punishment for cheating on your spouse—even if the spouse doesn’t know?
- Is there a punishment for welding without eye protection?
- From where does the punishment come?
- From breaking the laws upon which God built life to exist
- And who continues to sustain the operation of those laws? which means what?
- God will not change His universe to meet sinners in sin—we must be changed to live in harmony with God and His design. As Jesus said “Remember that as long as heaven and earth last, not the least point nor the smallest detail of the Law will be done away with...” Mt 5:18 GNB
- Does this give insight into what Paul meant in 1Cor 15:56: “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.”

Understanding this we can understand how God punishes sin—not by actively using His power to inflict punishment, but by sustaining the operations of His universe, His laws, including the law of liberty and in the end leaving unrepentant sinners free to experience what one experiences what unremedied sin does.

The last paragraph states, “God wills that all men should be saved; for ample provision has been made,



in giving His only-begotten Son to pay man's ransom.”

What does this mean? How do we understand such language? What law lens to we hear it through?

What is the function of a ransom? The price to free one held in captivity or bondage.

What holds us in bondage? The lies we believe about God and our own sinful nature.

What is the price necessary to set us free? The truth to destroy lies and win us to trust and a new nature—both of which Christ provided/achieved at great cost to Himself.

To whom are these provided or given or paid? To us!

Notice, there is no legal payment involved at all!

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, “Some of the deepest divisions...” What is meant by deepest divisions?

We need to clarify because when I was in the military I was Division Psychiatrist for the 3rd Infantry Division—we have divisions in the military—which are separate units—but are the various divisions in an Army divided, or were the various US Army divisions that invaded Normandy united?

Now within our 3rd Infantry Division we had people of different races, ethnicity and religion—yet we were all part of the same Division and were united in a common mission or purpose.

Are there any lessons from this example?

Why do differences all too often cause division (and in this case I mean fragmentation and hostile opposition, not organized partitions)?

What is the underlying motive that contributes to the fragmentation and hostility when difference exist between people and groups of people? Fear and selfishness, which can be exploited with lies, such as people of different groups are less than human—devaluing in some way.

Why do people get threatened and act violently when someone believes differently about God than they do?

Have you ever known some people who get upset or angry at their spouse if the spouse has an idea, opinion, or conclusion that is different than their own?

Why? Because in the mind of the one who gets angry an idea that is different is not seen as a new possibility to be considered, examined, evaluated and if true appreciated, but instead is seen as an



indictment against them—that they are either wrong or stupid or ignorant.

In other words, the one who gets angry is afraid—afraid of not being good enough, bright enough, smart enough, and fears rejection and cannot tolerate ideas that challenge their own.

Could this be a similar process with those who are intolerant of other's religious ideas?

What about scientist and liberals who are intolerant of Christian values or beliefs, what is demonstrated?

Have you ever been taught that one day the conservative Christians will take hold of government to enforce certain religious observances? And history is filled with countless examples of just that:

- The Inquisition
- Mormon's oppressed and persecuted by Christians
- Muslims oppressing Christians
- Christians persecuting and criminalizing homosexuality
- Murders and bombings of abortion doctors or clinics by so-called Christians

But what is happening in the US today is the opposite, those who reject a belief in God and embrace a humanistic godless worldview are inciting mobs seeking to take hold of government to force people to live according to their moral standards—whether it be forcing people to provide abortion treatment, forcing people to participate in gay weddings, forcing people to share bathrooms with a gender conflicted person who appears to be of the opposite sex.

I am not focusing on abortion or gender rights, we should treat all people with equality—valuing each of them—I am focusing **on the methods** people employ in dealing with others who don't agree. Do we present the truth (as we understand or believe it) in love and leave others free or do we seek to coerce in some way, to force others to comply with our values?

And the point is, it doesn't matter if one is politically right or left, if one doesn't stand on Godly principles of truth and love founded upon design law, one ultimately resorts to coercion of others.

We need to move away from rules and check-box thinking to principle-based methods so we can recognize beastly methods wherever they present and with whatever issue is being advanced.

In the second paragraph the lesson quotes Ephesians 2:13, which reads, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

What does this mean?

Is the text referring to literal red corpuscles or is it a metaphor?



Of what is the blood symbolic? The life of Christ—how does the life of Christ bring us near? By demonstrating the truth about God and dispelling lies which leads us to trust, and by providing a template of a new character which we receive from the Holy Spirit. We get new desires, motives, longings etc.

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph, “The practical...” This is the key to unity—love, which loves others more than self, always seeking the best interest of others.

If we love others what happens to our fear and insecurity?

If we love others what happens to the desire to dominate others?

If we love others what happens to racial, ethnic and religious difference when we interact with others?

So, does love for others bring unity?

If yes, then what did Christ mean when He said in Mt 10:34-36:

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn

“ ‘a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

From *The Remedy*:

"Don't think that I have come to make peace with a selfish world. I have not come to bring peace with selfishness, but a sword to cut selfishness out of the hearts of people. ³⁵ I have come to cut dysfunctional family ties: to free a son from selfish loyalty to his father's ambitions and feuds, to sever a daughter from the control of an oppressive and manipulative mother, to cut through the fear and hostility a daughter-in-law has toward her mother-in-law. ³⁶ A person's worst enemies are often members of their own family.

So, is the sword here to divide or to remove the cause of division in order to unite? And what is the sword? The sword of truth wielded in love!

WEDNESDAY

Read second paragraph, “All Christians...” Do you agree? Who gives the Spiritual gifts? And is it the gifts given by the Holy Spirit that equips people for various ministry?



So, if this is true then why do many church organizations ordain only women if women are already being ordained by the Holy Spirit with gifts of pastoring?

Do we truly believe in the priesthood of all believers, or do we reject the Biblical position and instead promote a human divisive structure?

Read last paragraph, “There is a strong...” What do you understand the message to be? What is being suggested? Is it suggesting submitting to the consensus of the church body?

Hmmm...what about Noah, Elijah, John the Baptist, Jesus, the Apostles, the Reformers?

Where is the balance between advancing truth, standing singly and alone and church unity?

Consider this description of Paul from *Acts of the Apostles*:

In his ministry, **Paul was often compelled to stand alone. He was specially taught of God and dared make no concessions that would involve principle.** At times the burden was heavy, but Paul stood firm for the right. He realized that the church must never be brought under the control of **human power. The traditions and maxims of men must not take the place of revealed truth.** {AA 199.3} **[could this include the human imposed law construct?]**

Should we surrender our thinking to the church group?

Adventist Pioneers believed that they would also face what Paul faced:

It does not seem possible to us now that **any should have to stand alone, but if God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils and before thousands for His name's sake, and each one will have to give the reason of his faith.** Then will come the severest criticism upon every position that has been taken for the truth. We need, then, to study the Word of God, that we may know why we believe the doctrines we advocate.-
-RH Dec. 18, 1888.

THURSDAY

Read second paragraph, “Paul’s exhortation to be submitted...” What does it mean to submit to each other? In what ways is submission healthy and when do we not submit?

We do not submit our thinking to others—but we do submit others to others—meaning we submit them to their choices.

We stop fighting to get our way if people are opposed to it, we step back and let them have their way



and experience the results. But that doesn't necessarily mean we participate with them or agree with them.

But we do not submit to participating in moral wrongs or living outside God's design.

We can submit to anything that is merely preferential and not moral, i.e. carpeting, which piano does the church buy, wallpaper, what property to buy, how much to spend on what project etc.

But we cannot submit to mispresenting God or refusing to fulfill what God has called us to do.

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Check our website for new chapters of *The Remedy* the Psalms will be going up slowly as they are completed and edited. When an entire book of the Old Testament is complete then it will be added to the app and when you update the app you will get the new book. Thank you for your prayers and support as I work on this project.

Watch *The Dr. Tim Jennings Show* on WBTN.TV Network. Go to TimJenningsMD.com for more info.

October 19, 20, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing a seminar at SAHUARITA Seventh-day Adventist CHURCH, 1475 W Via de Chapala, Sahuarita, AZ 85629-9136 church. This just outside Tucson AZ.

November 9,10 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at Houston, TX, in conjunction with the AACC

December 1, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing an Aging Brain seminar in Dallas, TX. Organized by the Arlington SDA church.

January 4-6, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking for the Florida Conference of SDA Women's Convention in Orlando, FL.

February 2-3, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking Christ's Church of Oronogo, MO.

February 22-March 9, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be in Australia speaking in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Adelaide, Avondale, Sydney, Livingston, Perth, and Melbourne.

Mental Health Matters *Community Gatherings for Help, Hope and Healing*
In partnership with Come and Reason Ministries and Hixson United Methodist Church

Guilt Resolution Thursday, November 8, 2018

Do you struggle with guilt? Discover the difference between legitimate and illegitimate guilt and how to resolve each and how to prevent people from manipulating you with guilt.

The God-Shaped Brain Thursday, December 13, 2018

Our brains are in a constant state of flux. Moment by moment new connections are forming, idle tracks are being pruned back and brain circuits are changing. Discover how our beliefs change our brain wiring, our physical health, and even which genes are turned on or turned off. Do your beliefs matter – more than you ever knew!