

**Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church**  
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**Johnson, Senior Pastor**

***“Be of the Same Mind One toward Another.” Part One***

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 12:16**

*“Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.” (King James Version)*

*“Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.” (New King James Version)*

**GOAL:** To understand the spiritual importance of “Being of the same mind”.

**OBJECTIVE:** Explore connections between “being of the same mind” with one another and growing into the likeness of Christ.

**LESSON INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:**

Time: **56 A.D.** Place: **Corinth**

The Church at Rome was founded by Jews who were converted on the day of Pentecost. Paul’s letter to these believers is perhaps the most powerful of all the epistles. It was written from Corinth during his third missionary journey. Paul desired to visit these Christians at Rome, which was at this time comprised largely of a Gentile population. Being unable to visit the Church at Rome, he sent this inspired document to reveal the great truths of the Gospel of Grace. This doctrine gives sound instructions to establish and encourage believer’s faith.

Romans 12: 16 ***“Be of the same mind one toward another”*** is the unity of love. Sameness of mind for believers is having love and affection toward each other and being of the same accord. We should love our brothers as ourselves and desire their welfare as our own. When we seek the mind of Christ (Phil. 2: 5) and are transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12: 2), we become more like him. The more we evolve into the likeness of Christ, the more we will become of the same mind. This renewed mind will exhibit humility. Do not set your mind on high things which denote pride and arrogance, rather, we should set our minds on heavenly things where Christ reigns (Col. 3:1-2). Then, Christ will fashion us in His image and we shall become new creatures who are one with Him and one with one another.

**LESSON CONTENT:**

**Being of the same mind is to surrender who we are to the transforming power of God’s**

**Holy Spirit** (*Philippians 1:27, Philippians 3:12-16. I Peter 3:8, and Col. 3:1-17*).

In Romans 12:16, The Greek word for mind is “*phroneo*”. It refers to the “*human consciousness*” which manifests itself in our thoughts, perceptions, emotions, memory and will (*actions*). This scriptural passage exhorts us to “*Be of the same mind one toward another.*”

Our identity or sameness of mind is not shaped simply by who we are as individuals but also by the spiritual family in which God has placed us. Understanding the bond as ‘brethren’ or being a part of God’s family helps us desire and demonstrate Christian unity. (I Corinthians 1:10) Such unity is for God’s glory (John 17:20- 26). God desires us (through His love) to be one with Him as Jesus is with the Father. This process begins by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Moreover, because we have died and risen in Christ as a result of salvation, (Galatians 2:20, Rom. 6:8, Col. 3:1, Ephes. 2:6), we have the capability (*through the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit*) to die to our old sin nature and rise in a new Christ-like identity.

God intends for His Word, which gives rise to our beliefs about the nature of Christ, His work, and His church to function as a unifying influence among his people. Devoting more attention and application of our lives to the doctrine of Christ will help us mirror God’s own perspective regarding what is foundational to the unity of his people. Unity must be more than external appearances. It must arise from the inward harmony of people who believe in the same God, obey the same Lord, and share the same spirit. Such people ARE perfectly joined together in mind, attitude, and thinking. The ultimate aim of Paul’s appeal is that God’s people live and serve in unity (I Corinthians 1: 10-17; Ephesians 4:3, 13; Philippians 2:2).

Being like-minded does not mean uniformity in thought, but a common disposition to work together and serve one another in love. (*Phil. 2: 1-5.*)<sup>5</sup> “*Being of the same mind one towards another*” is the result of yielding to the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit as He transforms us day by day. In every way, our lives ought to demonstrate our continuous growth and progress in becoming more like Jesus.

.....*To Be Continued*.....

#### **ESSENTIAL INSIGHTS/QUESTIONS:**

1. Has the church missed spiritual growth, opportunities and blessings because of spiritual arrogance and pride?
  2. Is God’s spiritual presence displaced when we are not in harmony with one another?
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## GLOSSARY<sup>1</sup>:

**Conceits:** *Enheautois* (en-heh-ow-toys'): Word Origin: Greek, Strong # 1438.

1. An unduly high opinion of one's self.
2. Synonyms: egotism, narcissism, vanity.

**Condescend:** *Sunapago* (soon-ap- ag' - o); Word Origin: Greek, Verb, Strong #: 4879

1. to lead away with or together
2. metaphor: to be carried away with
  - a. to yield or submit one's self to lowly things, conditions, and employments.
3. to descend to the level of one considered inferior. (Vines)

**Estate:** a stage; condition; or status of life. *Tapeinos* (tap-i-nos'): Adjective, Strong # 5011

1. rising far from the ground
2. metaphor:
  - a. as a condition, lowly, of low degree
  - b. lowly in spirit, humble
  - c. in a bad sense, deporting one's self abjectly, deferring servilely to others

**High:** *Hupselos* (hoop-say-los): Word Origin: Greek, Adjective, Strong #5308

1. high, lofty
  - a. exalted on high; eminent, exalted
  - b. with an uplifted arm, i.e. with signal power
  - c. to influence and honor
  - d. to set the mind on to seek, high things, (as honors and riches), to be aspiring

**Mind:** The human consciousness that is manifested in through, perception, emotion, will and memory. opinion or sentiment. *Phroneo* (fron-eh'-o): Word Origin: Greek, verb, Strong #: 5426

1. to feel, to think
  - a. to have an opinion of one's self, think of one's self, to be modest, not let one's opinion (though just) of himself exceed the bounds of modesty
  - b. to think or judge what one's opinion is
  - c. to be of the same mind, i.e. agreed together, cherish the same views, be harmonious

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<sup>1</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary; Strong's Exhaustive Concordance