



Times of Worship

Sunday Bible Classes:	9am
Sunday AM Worship:	10am
Sunday PM Worship:	5pm
Wednesday Bible Study:	7pm

Join us Online

Church Website:

<https://www.westfayettechurchofchrist.com/>

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGckN8D9NwwX3KUbQ4GRKyA>

Interested in a Bible Study?

Please send an email to
patcawthon@gmail.com

Evangelist

Patrick Cawthon

Attaining Unity

One of the very last things Jesus prayed to His Father about before His death on the cross was unity among His disciples. After praying for God's will to be done in His own life and praying for His disciples, Jesus turns his attention to His future disciples - that's you and me. This is what He prayed for us to do, *"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."* (Joh 17:20-21)

We are to be one just as Jesus and God are one. That kind of unity takes a lot of work. Our goal individually and collectively needs to be to focused on becoming like Christ and having His mindset. That is not going to happen by accident. This is going to take focus and a lot of hard work.

Paul instructs the church at Ephesus to be *"diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* (Eph 4:3) In the previous verse, he tells us how to accomplish this feat. It takes humility, gentleness, patience, and showing tolerance for one another in love. If there is a lack of unity, one of these principles is missing.

Week of May 21

Attendance

- ✦ **AM Service** - 68
- ✦ **PM Service** -
- ✦ **Wednesday** -

Contribution

- ✦ Weekly Budget \$2,400
- ✦ Contribution - \$2,217

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

- ✦ Joanne Skinner (5/31)
- ✦ Teddy Morgan (6/1)
- ✦ Susan Todd (6/2)

Calendar Items

Men's Meeting this afternoon at 4pm at the building

Women's Bible Study on Tuesday at the building at 11a

Song Learning Class on June 11 at 4pm at the building

Today's Lessons

- ✦ **AM Sermon** - The Good, the Bad, and the Jonah
- ✦ **PM Sermon** - 2 Samuel 18

When a person views themselves as smarter and better than others, it is hard to attain unity. This kind of person believes we can have unity as soon as everyone believes the same way he/she does. A humble person is ready to reason with others knowing their thoughts are important and they might be wrong. The goal is to figure out the truth together.

When a person is not gentle but instead runs over others with their thoughts and ideas, unity will not happen. We need to always be ready to listen and try to understand what they are saying. Too often a person's goal is not to understand another person's view but to force their view on others.

We must be patient with one another if we are going to fulfill Jesus' request to His Father for us to become unified. One of the hardest times to be patient is when we are wronged by someone else. To help us be patient, think about how patient God is with us. If God still puts up with us, how much more should we be able to be patient with other people who sin like we do?

We must tolerate one another in love. Paul said to the church in Colossae, "Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity." (**Col 3:14**) If we want to be unified, we need to grow in our love towards one another knowing we will let each other down. We should never tolerate sin and call it unity. Instead, we should tolerate one another and help each other overcome sin.

Why is unity so important? Does this seem like too much work to you? Looking back at Jesus' prayer in John 17, He gives us a great reason to put in the work to be unified. We need to be perfected in unity "so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me." (v. 23) The more unified we are, the more we show the world who Jesus is.

Patrick