

## Unity

Many of you have figured out by now that I am an avid (some say rabid) sports fan. I confess that to be the case and I am glad we got that cleared up. It should come as no surprise that I will use another sports illustration to make a spiritual point, so here we go.

The 2003 Florida Marlins achieved amazing success in Major League Baseball. They were a team comprised of relatively unknown players receiving salaries far below other teams. Yet, they defeated the New York Yankees, one of the highest paid teams, in the World Series. When asked how this was accomplished their manager, Jack McKeon, credited their success to attitude and playing together as a team. In other words, they were unified in the task before them.

The religious world today is in a badly fractured state. There are more denominational groups in existence than ever before and the number continues to increase. The largest percentage of them claims to be bible-based, they claim to believe in Jesus and claim they are part of the church of the first century. How can this be? Can this be the unity identified by and demanded by the New Testament (Eph. 4:1-6)?

The answer is a resounding, “No.” What we have evidenced today is *union in diversity*. There can be no unity in diversity regarding matters of doctrine. To be in unity, we must do biblical things in biblical ways without the intervention of the desires and demands of man. May we be those who seek unity. May we realize that it must come to **conformity to His will** rather than putting our desires at the forefront.

Sermon Outline: Unity

1. Introduction – Eph. 4:1-6
2. One Body – 1 Cor. 12:20-22; Eph. 1:22-23; Phil. 3:16
3. One Spirit – Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18; Eph. 3:1-5
4. One Hope – Rom. 8:24; Jno. 8:24; Acts 22:16; 1 Cor. 15:19; Matt. 11:28-30

Sunday P.M. – New Testament Survey (2): Why Four Gospel Accounts?