THE QUESTION

What does the Bible teach about unity, and how did the early Christians understand it?

Asked by a THF member on July 23, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 13 numbered quotations · the 47 early Christian passages and 221 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-does-the-bible-teach-about-unity-and-how-did-the-early-christians

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Scripture teaches that Christians are one because they share one God, one Lord, one Spirit, one faith and one baptism. The early writers saw the church as one body bound together by love. They urged patience and shared joy and sorrow, and they warned that causing division tears apart Christ's own members.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 8

Unity rests on one God and one Spirit

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement asks the quarreling Corinthians to remember what they already share. Ignatius reasons the same way: because there is one God, one Lord, one Spirit and one baptism, there should also be one faith. For both, unity comes first from God, not from human agreement.

1

"Have we not all one God and one Christ? Is there not one Spirit of grace poured out upon us? And have we not one calling in Christ?"

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 45, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

2

"For if there is one God of the universe, the Father of Christ, "of whom are all things;" and one Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord, "by whom are all things;" and also one Holy Spirit, who worked in Moses, and in the prophets and apostles; and also one baptism, which is administered so that we should share in the death of the Lord; and also one chosen Church; there should likewise be but one faith in respect to Christ."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistles of Ignatius* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 10, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

Division tears apart Christ's own body

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement uses the picture of the body to show that splitting the church is a kind of self-harm. He also points out the damage it does: many people lose heart and begin to doubt.

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3 “Why do we divide and tear to pieces the members of Christ, and raise up strife against our own body, and have reached such a height of madness as to forget that “we are members one of another?””

later in the same passage

“Your schism has subverted the faith of many, has discouraged many, has given rise to doubt in many, and has caused grief to us all.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 45, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 8

Love is the bond that holds unity

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement and Cyprian both name love as what keeps believers together. Clement says love makes no room for splits, and Cyprian calls love the support and security of unity.

4 “Love allows no schisms; love gives rise to no seditions; love does all things in harmony.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 46, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

5 “Love is the bond of brotherhood, the foundation of peace, and the firm support and security of unity.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 30, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

One body shares joy and sorrow

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Chrysostom explains Paul's words "one body" as a shared life: caring for others and sharing their joy. Alexander of Alexandria applies the same idea between churches, writing so that all can suffer or rejoice together.

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6 “It is one body because of mutual sympathy, because we do not work against the good of others, and because we share in their joy.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **John Chrysostom,** *Homilies on Ephesians* 11 (c. 386–407 AD) **Source 42, page 9** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

7 “Then, if one member suffers or rejoices, we may all suffer or rejoice together with one another.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Alexander of Alexandria,** *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (c. 313–328 AD) **Source 38, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

Patience and peacemaking keep unity alive

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian reads Paul as saying unity cannot last without patience and bearing with one another. The Didache gives a plain rule for daily life: do not want division, and help people who are fighting make peace.

8 “He proved that neither unity nor peace could be kept unless brothers cherish one another with mutual tolerance, and keep the bond of harmony through patience.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 30, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

9 “You shall not desire division, but shall bring to peace those who contend.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 4 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Church unity reflects the Father and Son

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Ignatius pictures the church as one choir in harmony. He links this to Jesus' prayer that his followers may be one as he and the Father are one.

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10 “Thus, being united in harmony and love, of which Jesus Christ is the Captain and Guardian, you should, each individual, become one choir; so that, agreeing together in unity and achieving perfect harmony with God, you may indeed be one in harmony with God the Father, and His beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 9, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

Unity meant staying with the church

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

For these writers, unity was not only a feeling. Ignatius tells believers to stay with their bishop and avoid divisions. Cyprian compares the church to Christ's seamless robe, which was not torn, as a sign that the church should not be split.

11 “But the Spirit proclaimed these words: Do nothing without the bishop; keep your bodies as the temples of God; love unity; avoid divisions; be the followers of Jesus Christ, just as He is of His Father.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 6, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

12 “He cannot possess the garment of Christ who parts and divides the Church of Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 25, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 8 OF 8

Leaving false teaching is not schism

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions draws a careful line. Unity does not mean staying joined to wrong teaching or wicked living. The one who causes a split is the one who leaves faithful believers.

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13 “Schism is caused not by the one who separates himself from the ungodly, but by the one who departs from the godly.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER
Apostolic Constitutions (c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 37, page 8 **Read it in the library ›**

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not explain how separated churches today should be brought back together.
- Several writers tie unity closely to the bishop, but these passages do not lay out every detail of church order.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 47 early Christian passages and 221 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–47, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 48–150, in Bible order), then 118 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *47 passages from 16 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 4 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** “shall not long for division, but shall bring those who contend to peace… [continues online] **read ›**

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 5) adding to it nor taking from it. Hate the wicked one to the end. Judge righteously. Do not cause divisions, but bring together those who contend. Confess your sins. Do… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 3–5*

3 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 4) at peace one with another, and visit each other, and bear each other's burdens, and do not partake of God's creatures alone, but give abundantly of them to… [continues online] **read ›**

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4 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 8) “like manner also shall it be with the Church of God, after it has been purified, and has rejected the wicked, and the hypocrites, and the blasphemers, and the waverers… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 5) they have always agreed with each other, and been at peace among themselves… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 6–13*

6 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** “unity; avoid divisions; be the followers of Jesus Christ, even as He is of His Father… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English; on point 7) “be ye all joined together with an undivided heart and a willing mind, “being of one accord and of one judgment,” being always of the same opinion about the same… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (on point 7) Christ does not tend, because they are not the planting of the Father. Not that I have found any division among you, but rather exceeding purity. For as many as… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (1885 English) **Quote 10, page 5** “says He, “Grant unto them, Holy Father, that as I and Thou are one, they also may be one in us.” It is therefore profitable that you, being joined together… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Epistles of Ignatius* **Quote 2, page 2** Mindful of your love and zeal in Christ, which you have shown towards us, we thought it appropriate to write to you, who display such a godly and spiritual love… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (1885 English; on point 1) “ye are, as Paul wrote to you, “one body and one spirit, because ye have also been called in one hope of the faith… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (1885 English; on point 1) by a unanimous obedience “ye may be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment, and may all speak the same thing concerning the same thing… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (on point 7) The more someone sees the bishop keeping silent, the more they should respect him. For we should receive anyone whom the Master of the house sends to be over His… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 14–16*

14 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English; on point 1) “the Church throughout all the world, having its origin firm from the apostles, perseveres in one and the same opinion with regard to God and His Son… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English; on point 2) “these schisms? We keep the feast, but in the leaven of malice and wickedness, cutting in pieces the Church of God… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 7) “those who cleave asunder, and separate the unity of the Church, [shall] receive from God the same punishment as Jeroboam did… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · source 17*

17 *Stromata* 2.9 (on point 3) or of those in the household. And if the real man within us is the spiritual man, philanthropy is brotherly love toward those who share in the same spirit. Natural… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · source 18*

18 *On Patience* 12 (on point 5) benefit her neighbors. "Nor is irritable." If she were, what would she have left to Impatience? Accordingly he says, "Charity endures all things; tolerates all things." Of course, because she… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 19*

19 *Against the Heresy of Noetus* 1 (on point 6) “they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and You in me, that they may be made perfect in one… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 20*

20 *Commentary on Matthew* 14 “I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them. Matthew 18:19 The word “symphony” is properly used… [continues online] **read ›**

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Dionysius of Alexandria, *c. 232–265 AD · sources 21–22*

21 *Epistles and Epistolary Fragments* (1885 English; on point 4) “also, and Pontus, and Bithynia; and, to comprise all in one word, all the lands everywhere, are rejoicing, praising God on account of this concord and brotherly charity… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Epistles and Epistolary Fragments* (on point 4) and Syria, and, to speak briefly, all parties everywhere are rejoicing at the unanimity and brotherly love now established, and are glorifying God for it… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 23*

23 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 27 (1885 English; on point 6) “one placed in the neuter, intimates the social concord, not the personal unity… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 24–33*

24 *Epistles* (on point 7) ought not even to be curious about what he teaches, as long as he teaches outside the bounds of unity. Whoever he may be, and whatever he may be, if… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Treatises* **Quote 12, page 5** “the sacrament and sign of His garment, He has declared the unity of the Church… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *Seventh Council of Carthage* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) “is one body, and one Spirit, as you have been called in one hope of your calling… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 7) “is one body and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 2) “this is violated brotherly charity; by this truth is adulterated, unity is divided… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Treatises* (on point 1) “is one, and Christ is one, and His Church is one, and the faith is one, and the… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Treatises* **Quotes 5, 8, pages 3, 4** persevere, because it knows how to endure all things. And in another place he says, "Forbearing one another in love, using every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Treatises* (on point 7) He cannot be a martyr who is not in the Church. He cannot attain the kingdom who forsakes the one that will reign there. Christ gave us peace. He commanded… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Treatises* (on point 3) In the same way, the Apostle Paul was urging the value of peace and love. He strongly declared and taught that neither faith nor alms, nor even the suffering itself… [continues online] **read ›**

33 *Epistles* (on point 7) and one Church, and one baptism appointed only in the one Church. Whoever departs from this unity must be found among heretics. And while he supports them against the Church… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 34–37*

34 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 1) “you may be one body and one spirit, perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) “some who ventured to set up such practices of old did not escape punishment… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 2) “you, brethren, who are instructed out of the Scripture, should take care not to make divisions in opinion, nor divisions in unity… [continues online] **read ›**

37 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 13, page 6** “Schism is Made, Not by Him Who Separates Himself from the Ungodly, But Who Departs from the Godly… [continues online] **read ›**

Alexander of Alexandria, *c. 313–328 AD · source 38*

38 *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “Since the body of the Catholic Church is one, and it is commanded in Holy Scripture that we should keep the bond of unanimity and peace, it follows that we… [continues online] **read ›**

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John Chrysostom, *c. 386–407 AD · sources 39–44*

39 *Homilies on Second Thessalonians* (on point 2) “ourselves, them, and the whole body. For these things do not come from love, but from division, schisms, and tearing splits. For even if I separate and take a member… [continues online] **read ›**

40 *Homilies on Acts* this cheered the Apostles more than the miracle? "And they continued steadfastly and with one accord in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship." Acts 2:42 Here are two virtues: perseverance… [continues online] **read ›**

41 *Homilies on Romans* (on point 2) exhortation, and after the exhortation, a prayer. For after telling them to mark those who cause divisions, and not to listen to them, he goes on: "And the God of… [continues online] **read ›**

42 *Homilies on Ephesians* 11 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** “then beautifully adds, and one Spirit, showing that from the one body there will be one Spirit: or, that it is possible that there may be indeed one body, and… [continues online] **read ›**

43 *Homilies on Ephesians* 11 (1885 English; on point 1) “is one body, and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling… [continues online] **read ›**

44 *Homilies on Ephesians* 10 (1885 English; on point 1) “is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *sources 45–47*

45 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quotes 1, 3, pages 2, 3** “are there strifes, and tumults, and divisions, and schisms, and wars among you… [continues online] **read ›**

46 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 4, page 3** is long-suffering in all things. There is nothing base, nothing arrogant in love. Love allows no schisms; love gives rise to no seditions; love does all things in harmony… [continues online] **read ›**

47 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 2) “now reflect who those are that have perverted you, and lessened the renown of your far-famed brotherly love… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *103 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

48 **Genesis 2:24** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. **read ›**

49 **Genesis 11:6** And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one race, and all have one speech, and this is what they have begun to do. Now nothing that they set out to do will fail them. **read ›**

50 **Leviticus 8:3** and assemble all the congregation at the door of the tabernacle of witness.” **read ›**

51 **Leviticus 26:37** Brother shall disregard brother as in war, though no one is attacking; and you shall not be able to stand against your enemies. **read ›**

52 **Numbers 16:22** But they fell on their faces and said, “O God, the God of the spirits and of all flesh, if one man has sinned, shall the wrath of the Lord be on all the congregation?” **read ›**

53 **Numbers 27:16** “Let the Lord God of the spirits and of all flesh select a man over this congregation, **read ›**

54 **Deuteronomy 6:4** Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord. **read ›**

55 **1 Kings 13:30** and they mourned for him, “Alas, brother!” **read ›**

56 **Ezra 2:9** The sons of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty. **read ›**

57 **Psalms 133:1** A Song of the Steps. Behold now, what is so good or so pleasant as for brothers to dwell together? (Septuagint Psalm 132:1 (Psalm 133:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

58 **Proverbs 5:16** Do not let waters from your spring be spilled over for you, but let your waters go through your streets. **read ›**

59 **Proverbs 8:29** and when he made strong the foundations of the earth, **read ›**

60 **Proverbs 12:10** The righteous has compassion on the lives of his cattle, but the inward parts of the ungodly are unmerciful. **read ›**

61 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

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62 **Isaiah 10:3** And what will they do in the day of visitation? For trouble will come to you from afar; and to whom will you flee to be helped? And where will you leave your glory, so as not to fall into captivity? **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 13:8** The elders will be troubled, and pains will seize them like a woman in labor; and they will lament one to another and be astonished, and they will change their faces like a flame. **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 13:13** For the heaven will be enraged, and the earth will be shaken from its foundations, because of the wrath of the anger of the Lord of hosts, in the day when his wrath comes upon it. **read ›**

65 **Isaiah 13:20** It will never be inhabited, nor will they enter it at all for many generations; nor will Arabians ever pass through it, nor will shepherds ever rest in it. **read ›**

66 **Isaiah 13:21** But wild beasts will rest there, and the houses will be filled with howling; and sirens will rest there, and demons will dance there, **read ›**

67 **Isaiah 14:1** And the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and they will rest on their land; and the resident foreigner will be added to them, and will be added to the house of Jacob. **read ›**

68 **Isaiah 14:3** And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will give you rest from your anguish and your anger, and from your hard slavery, in which you served them. **read ›**

69 **Isaiah 14:6** Having struck a nation in wrath with an incurable blow, striking a nation with a blow of wrath which did not spare, he rested in confidence. **read ›**

70 **Isaiah 14:7** All the earth cries out with gladness, **read ›**

71 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

72 **Jeremiah 49:20** Therefore hear the counsel of the Lord, which he has counseled against Idumea, and his plan, which he has planned against those who dwell in Teman: surely the least of the sheep will be swept away; surely their dwelling place will be made desolate against them; (Septuagint Jeremiah 30:14 (Jeremiah 49:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

73 **Ezekiel 41:9** and the breadth of the wall of the side chamber on the outside, five cubits; and the remaining spaces between the side chambers of the house, **read ›**

74 **Daniel 1:14** And he listened to them and tested them for ten days. **read ›**

75 **Amos 9:15** And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall never again be plucked up from the land which I have given them, says the Lord God Almighty. **read ›**

76 **1 Esdras 2:9** and those around them helped in everything, with silver and gold, horses and cattle, and very many vows from many whose minds were stirred. **read ›**

77 **1 Esdras 5:40** And Nehemiah and Attharias told them not to share in the holy things until a high priest should arise clothed with the Manifestation and the Truth. **read ›**

78 **1 Esdras 9:38** And the whole multitude gathered together in the open square before the gate of the temple toward the east, **read ›**

79 **1 Esdras 9:55** because they had been filled with understanding by the words in which they had been instructed, and they had been gathered together. **read ›**

80 **Wisdom of Solomon 7:27** Though she is one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God and prophets. **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Solomon 9:15** For a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthly tent burdens the mind that ponders many things. **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:1** For your incorruptible Spirit is in all things. **read ›**

83 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:1** In three things I was made beautiful, and I stood up in beauty before the Lord and men: harmony among brothers, and friendship among neighbors, and a wife and husband who suit each other. **read ›**

84 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:9** And a sinful man will trouble friends, and he casts slander among those who are at peace. **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Sirach 34:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

86 **Baruch 1:6** And they collected money, as each one was able, **read ›**

87 **1 Maccabees 3:44** And the congregation gathered together to be ready for battle, and to pray and to ask for mercy and compassion. **read ›**

88 **1 Maccabees 4:37** So all the army was gathered together, and they went up to Mount Zion. **read ›**

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89 **1 Maccabees 5:16** When Judas and the people heard these words, a great assembly gathered to decide what they should do for their brothers who were in trouble and were being attacked by them. **read ›**

90 **1 Maccabees 5:64** and people gathered to them, acclaiming them. **read ›**

91 **1 Maccabees 8:29** On these terms the Romans made an agreement with the people of the Jews. **read ›**

92 **1 Maccabees 12:10** have tried to send word to renew our brotherhood and friendship with you, so that we may not become strangers to you; for much time has passed since you sent word to us. **read ›**

93 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

94 **2 Maccabees 8:29** When they had done this, they made a common plea and begged the merciful Lord to be fully reconciled with his slaves. **read ›**

95 **2 Maccabees 14:20** When the terms had been considered at length, and the leader had laid them before the multitude, and they were seen to be of one mind, they consented to the agreements. **read ›**

96 **3 Maccabees 2:30** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **4 Maccabees 9:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

98 **4 Maccabees 10:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

99 **4 Maccabees 13:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

100 **4 Maccabees 13:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

101 **4 Maccabees 13:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

102 **4 Maccabees 13:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

103 **4 Maccabees 13:23** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

104 **4 Maccabees 13:24** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

105 **4 Maccabees 13:25** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

106 **4 Maccabees 13:26** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

107 **4 Maccabees 13:27** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

108 **4 Maccabees 14:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

109 **4 Maccabees 14:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

110 **4 Maccabees 14:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

111 **4 Maccabees 14:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

112 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

113 **1 Enoch 49:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

114 **1 Enoch 57:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

115 **1 Enoch 60:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

116 **1 Enoch 62:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

117 **Mark 2:5** Jesus, seeing their faithfulness, said to the paralyzed man, “Child, your sins are forgiven you.” **read ›**

118 **Luke 12:52** For from now on, there will be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. **read ›**

119 **Luke 12:53** They will be divided, father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against her mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.” **read ›**

120 **Luke 14:9** and he who invited both of you would come and tell you, ‘Make room for this person.’ Then you would begin, with shame, to take the lowest place. **read ›**

121 **John 2:10** and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when the guests have drunk freely, then that which is worse. You have kept the good wine until now!” **read ›**

122 **John 17:21** that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that you sent me. **read ›**

123 **Acts 4:32** The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul. No one said that any of his possessions was his own, but they had all things in common. **read ›**

124 **Acts 7:26** The next day he appeared to them as they fought and urged them toward peace, saying, ‘Men, you are brothers; why do you wrong one another?’ **read ›**

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125 **Acts 11:29** The disciples determined, each according to his means, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea, **read ›**

126 **Romans 12:5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. **read ›**

127 **Romans 15:26** For it has been the good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are at Jerusalem. **read ›**

128 **1 Corinthians 1:6** just as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, **read ›**

129 **1 Corinthians 1:10** Now I urge you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be joined together in the same mind and the same judgment. **read ›**

130 **1 Corinthians 1:11** For those of Chloe's household have reported to me about you, my brothers, that there are quarrels among you. **read ›**

131 **1 Corinthians 6:17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. **read ›**

132 **1 Corinthians 10:17** Because there is one loaf of bread, we, who are many, are one body; for we all partake of the one loaf of bread. **read ›**

133 **1 Corinthians 11:18** For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and I partly believe it. **read ›**

134 **1 Corinthians 11:19** For there also must be factions among you, that those who are approved may be revealed among you. **read ›**

135 **1 Corinthians 12:12** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of that one body, though many, are one body, so also is Christ. **read ›**

136 **1 Corinthians 12:13** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all given drink to share in one Spirit. **read ›**

137 **1 Corinthians 12:20** But as it is, there are many members, yet one body. **read ›**

138 **1 Corinthians 12:25** so that there may be no divisions in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. **read ›**

139 **1 Corinthians 16:1** Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I commanded the churches of Galatia, you do likewise. **read ›**

140 **1 Corinthians 16:14** Let all that you do be done in love. **read ›**

141 **2 Corinthians 8:3** For according to their ability, I testify, and beyond their ability, they gave willingly, **read ›**

142 **2 Corinthians 8:14** so that their abundance may also supply your need, so that there may be equality, **read ›**

143 **Galatians 5:20** idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousies, outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, heresies, **read ›**

144 **Ephesians 4:3** being eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **read ›**

145 **Ephesians 4:4** There is one body and one Spirit, even as you also were called in one hope of your calling, **read ›**

146 **Ephesians 4:5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **read ›**

147 **Ephesians 4:13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **read ›**

148 **Philippians 2:2** make my joy complete by being of the same mind, having the same love, being one in soul, of one mind. **read ›**

149 **Hebrews 13:1** Let brotherly love continue. **read ›**

150 **2 Peter 1:7** and in godliness, brotherly affection; and in brotherly affection, love. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *118 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Exodus 6:24 · 20:7 · 23:14

Leviticus 19:15

2 Samuel 6:4

Proverbs 11:25 · 22:6 · 31:20

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Isaiah 1:15 · 1:17

Matthew 2:20 · 5:9 · 5:23 · 5:25 · 5:42 · 7:14 · 18:6 · 18:17 · 18:19 · 18:20 · 18:21 · 19:9 · 23:6 · 23:18 · 24:25 · 24:31 · 26:24 · 26:43

Mark 8:38 · 9:42 · 12:39 · 13:14

Luke 6:30 · 6:37 · 11:23 · 11:43 · 12:21 · 12:47 · 15:3 · 15:11 · 16:1 · 17:2 · 20:46 · 22:32

John 3:5 · 3:6 · 3:36 · 8:29 · 10:30 · 10:33 · 10:36 · 14:24 · 16:13

Acts 8:18 · 10:28 · 23:4 · 23:5

Romans 1:32 · 2:21 · 2:24 · 8:29 · 10:2 · 10:4 · 10:19 · 11:11 · 12:9 · 14:12 · 15:27

1 Corinthians 1:1 · 1:2 · 1:12 · 3:6 · 3:11 · 3:13 · 3:16 · 5:4 · 5:11 · 12:26 · 13:4 · 14:30 · 15:6 · 16:18

2 Corinthians 6:17 · 8:18 · 11:2 · 11:29

Galatians 5:19 · 6:2

Ephesians 2:20 · 4:1 · 4:11 · 4:26 · 5:6 · 5:27 · 5:31 · 6:5 · 6:9

Philippians 1:21 · 3:16

Colossians 3:22 · 4:1

1 Thessalonians 1:1 · 5:12 · 5:13

1 Timothy 1:13

2 Timothy 1:16 · 3:2

Hebrews 6:2 · 6:6 · 13:7 · 13:17

James 1:8 · 4:1 · 5:4 · 5:16

1 Peter 2:5 · 4:8

Revelation 22:18

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What does the Bible teach about unity, and how did the early Christians understand it?” on July 23, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY