

Thank you...Alexis Brown  
Speaker for today

### Our Speech

*“Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but if there is any good word for edification according to the need of the moment, say that, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”*  
Ephesians 4:29

### December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown    18 Alexis Brown    22 Elizabeth Medina  
31 Bob Pescador

### December Anniversaries

18 Jim & Marie Burruss

#### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:  
[indiochurchofchrist.com](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

Preacher: Vacant

**Church of Christ**  
81-377 Ave 46  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

# Indio Informer

Vol. 35 No. 47

November 24, 2024

## Think Unity

By Bill Brandstatter

A former President’s wife once told a group of graduates to “think unity.” I don’t know the whole context of her speech, but I do agree with those two words. We should “think unity” regarding Christianity.

Jesus said, “Think unity.” He prayed that “*they may all be one.*” This is definitely not the status of the world of professed believers today. There are so many differing views it is hard for a person to decide which group to follow. The unity for which Jesus was praying was centered on Him and His message. He said, “*You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:32). Some groups today have swallowed the idea of “unity in diversity” or “agree to disagree.” Jesus didn’t know anything about that. He wanted all to be one.

Paul wanted us to “think unity.” Paul is the writer of the great chapter that presents the seven ones of Christianity. In Ephesians 4, Paul wrote about, “*One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is above all, through all, and in you all.*” When Paul preached, his message was the same everywhere he went. He told the church at Corinth, “*so I ordained in every church.*” (1 Corinthians 4:17) Today, there are conflicting views regarding: salvation, the church, the kingdom, the second coming, etc. Paul just preached unity. He stated in 1 Corinthians 1:10; “*that there be no division among you.*” Today, many would say there needs to be a lot of division. The world tells us to attend the church of our choice.

Peter wants us to “think unity.” Peter was there when Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to the apostles (John 16:13). Jesus

promised the Comforter would guide them into “all truth.” Later, Peter wrote that we have “*all things that pertain to life and godliness.*” (2 Peter 1:3) If we have all we need, nothing more is needed.

Unity is not just agreeing to disagree. Neither is it just tolerating the mistakes of others. Unity has a centerpiece or a standard by which two or more are in agreement. That standard is Christ. We must be united around His message. It is His words that will judge us (John 12:48). He is the only one that can save us (Acts 4:12). If we do what He says, we will get what He promised (Hebrews 5:8,9).

**Unity is found only in Christ Jesus!**

### **On Being One**

By Joseph D. Chase

The devil loves division because it causes hatred and other grievous sins. It pits people against people. There are so many ways that the devil has invented to divide people: Skin color, how much money we have, social rank, even the Bible is used to tear people apart.

I've never understood prejudice against people for their skin color or social standing or the kind of car they drive. Look how much pain and misery there is because a white person does not love and value a black person. Jesus didn't put a qualifier on loving our neighbor.

Right now, in our country, the devil is having a Hay-day as he brings out the hatred between fellow humans. Shouldn't we be going the extra mile to show love, compassion, and acceptance to each other?

*“If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.”*(1 John 4:20 ESV)

I expect that I will have to give more than I take in my relationships with others. Church it is time for us to look out and see souls! Souls that Jesus died to save. There is a valuable statement that Paul made that clearly teaches we are all ONE family...

***“...For we are indeed his offspring”***

(Acts 17:28 ESV).

### **Count to Ten!**

by Joe Slater

Few things bring us more regret than words we have spoken. Especially when a situation is heated by emotion, we tend to speak harshly rather than letting our speech be “with grace, seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6).

I remember a piece of advice: “Count to ten” before saying anything. Even ten might be insufficient, but the principle of thinking before speaking finds much support in Scripture.

*“Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him”* (Proverbs 29:20). That applies to additional settings besides anger. Simple off-the-cuff remarks can devastate someone's feelings even though you didn't intend it.

But angry words are the culprit more often than not. An excellent song admonishes us: “Angry words, Oh, let them never from the tongue unbridled slip.” The writer obviously referred to James 1:26 where the Lord's brother wrote, *“If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.”*

Just as a bridle controls a horse, we must control our tongue (i.e. our words). Hear again the wise King Solomon: *“A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back”* (Proverbs 29:11). Someone protests, “I was just speaking my mind!” Perhaps so, but might it not have been better if you had thought it through first?

***“In a multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise”*** (Proverbs 10:19)