



BLESSINGS OF UNITY
Retreat/ Group Companion WORKBOOK



THE BLESSINGS OF UNITY

Retreat/Group Companion

WORKBOOK

RICHARD T. CASE



Dedication

To my wife, Linda, who is committed to and keeps our marriage on track to pursue unity in everything, as she knows that when we dwell in unity with the Spirit “There God commands Blessings”—and as we have learned this, it has proven to be true—as we work through every issue, every decision, every adversity to Unity, we discover God’s will and God’s covenant answers that are Best and None Better—every time, all the time. Together we make this a priority in our marriage—to walk in Unity together as we hear God’s voice in giving direction and promises. What a joy and a privilege to have a mate who believes this, lives it out every day, and encourages me to live it out every day.

Our life is truly exceptional; and we have continually been on one grand adventure, step by step—in Christ!

We together also wish to honor our family who have all learned to also live in Unity and receive God’s best. We as a family get to see God at work, and how wonderful it is to experience this process of life together. They are all such inspiration.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank all of the leaders of our Ministry: **Abide Ministries**. These leaders have also learned to go to Unity and receive grand answers for their lives. They freely share and give away what we ourselves experience. Their dedication and faithfulness have meant so much to the growth of the ministry and to Linda and I; It has produced endless testimonies and encouraging stories of transformation and lives being effected through what they “walk out” themselves and what they in turn give away as what we have termed “faithful sheep dogs”. Together as a leadership team we have walked alongside one another and always assist each other in going to Unity of the Spirit.

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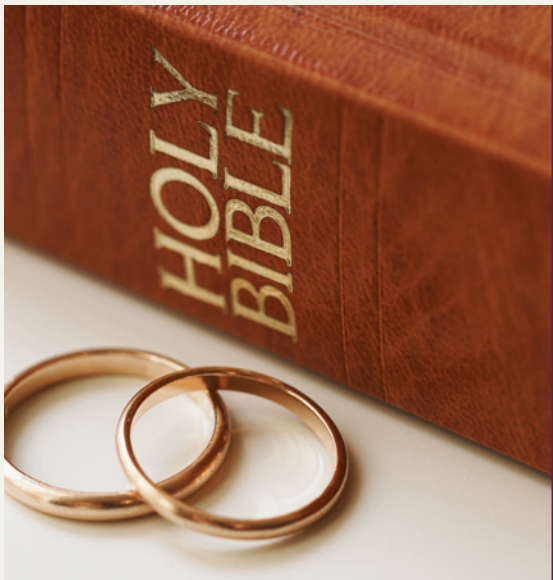
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LESSON 1

THE CAUSES OF DISCORD / DIVISION; THE BLESSINGS OF UNITY



“God says how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity. For it is there that the Lord commands blessing.”

Read Psalm 133:

When Brothers Dwell in Unity
A Song of Ascents. Of David.

133 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!^[a]

² It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

³ It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

If you are married and both of you rate an item low, what does that mean?

If you'd like to know more about **Abide Ministries**, please see our pages at the back of the workbook

LESSON 1

THE CAUSES OF DISCORD / DIVISION; THE BLESSINGS OF UNITY

What does it mean if one of you rates it high and the other one rates it low?

DIVISION AND DISCORD:

Read Genesis 2:15–17:

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat^[a] of it you shall surely die.”

Read Genesis 3:1–7:

The Fall

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You^[a] shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,^[b] she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

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Using deceit, he challenged the importance of God's truth and what was best for them. *Did God really say that? You know that isn't true, right?* At that moment, we know that they fell. But, in looking at the whole scene, what was the real issue? What did they fail to do?

Interesting enough, God had likely given these instructions years prior. Had they ever questioned what they meant?

Did God want them to be in the dark, not fully understanding the consequences of eating from that particular tree?

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So, Satan tells them not to worry about any consequences, as what God said was not true. *Don't you want to go to the better place and be just like God?* How did they respond?

Sin nature is being separated from God. So, when they ate of the tree, they became separated from God and died. But what exactly died?

How well can someone fulfill the requirement of perfection when operating in the sin nature?

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What happens when you are born again?

Is it the same as Adam and Eve before the fall?

Read John 10:10:

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

The thief, the enemy has come to do what?

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When is this happening?

Read Luke 4:4–8:

⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."

Satan states that the authority of the world has been given to him, and his authority is kill, steal, and destroy. Who delivered this authority to him?

Why?

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Jesus even said that in the world you're going to have what?

How come?

Our role, however, is to take it back. How do we go about taking it back?

Read 1 John 5:18–20:

¹⁸ We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

¹⁹ We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

LESSON 1

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In Matthew 28, however, Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on Earth has been given to me." How do we reconcile this?

If Jesus has been given all authority, how does Satan still have the authority?

Christ says that He has all the authority in His Kingdom, which is superior to the kingdom of the world. Where would you like to be?

LESSON 1

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Read Proverbs 6:16–19:

¹⁶ There are six things that the LORD hates,
seven that are an abomination to him:

¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
and hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that make haste to run to evil,

¹⁹ a false witness who breathes out lies,
and one who sows discord among brothers.

These verses provide a list of things that are an abomination to God. What is an abomination?

One of the significant ones that He detests is sowing discord. What does *discord* mean?

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Read Romans 8:5–8:

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

What is the difference between the flesh being led by the flesh, instead of being led by the Spirit?

Read Galatians 5:19–21:

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy,^[a] drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do^[b] such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Spirit and the flesh fight each other. What are they fighting for?

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How do you know when you live in the Kingdom?

How do you follow the Spirit?

Read James 4:1–4:

Warning Against Worldliness

4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions^[a] are at war within you?^[b] **2** You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **4** You adulterous people!^[c] Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

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Read James 4:11:

¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brothers.^[a] The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

How do you judge each other? In particular, how do spouses judge each other?

If you judge by thinking you are right and they are not, what do you then spend your time doing?

What if the other party opposes you and believes they are right?

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What is this called?

Have you discovered God's will?

Read James 5:9:

⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

Read Galatians 5:1–4:

Christ Has Set Us Free

5 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified^[a] by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

When you set up a rule, you are saying that you are right, you are serving as judge, and are asking everybody to follow that. In doing that, you are obligated to be perfect and follow the entire law. You are to return to the requirement of being holy since you became the judge. How well can you achieve perfection?

LESSON 1

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What is the reason for these consequences?

Why?

Read Genesis 13:6–7:

⁶so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, ⁷and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.

Why did they have trouble?

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What would God have wanted them to do?

Read Ecclesiastes 4: 9–12:

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

A three-cord strand cannot be cut. Who is the third cord?

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Read Genesis 2:24–25:

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

In a relationship, what are the two to become?

Does it imply that they become the same personality?

Does it imply that they can't disagree?

Read 2 Chronicles 5:11–14:

¹¹ And when the priests came out of the Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had consecrated themselves, without regard to their divisions, ¹² and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kinsmen, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with 120 priests who were trumpeters; ¹³ and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord), and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD,

“For he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever,”

the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, ¹⁴ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

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Read Acts 2:40–47:

⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe^[a] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Read Colossians 2:2–3:

² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

LESSON 1

THE CAUSES OF DISCORD / DIVISION; THE BLESSINGS OF UNITY

What do you need wisdom and understanding for?

How do you receive this wisdom and understanding?

When do you receive the wisdom?

Why is the typical Christian not living that way?

LESSON 2

HOW DO WE LIVE IN UNITY?



“... if we follow the Spirit and live in the Kingdom, God says He will deliver to you the abundant life and can resolve all your issues.”

Read Ephesians 4:1–6:

Unity in the Body of Christ

4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

In these verses, Paul urges us to work really, really hard to keep unity. Unity of what?

How can He get you both to unity every time, all the time?

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HOW DO WE LIVE IN UNITY?

What are we supposed to do when we have yet to reach unity with the Spirit?

Read Philippians 2:1–6:

Christ's Example of Humility

2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,^[a] ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,^[b]

What is the definition of conceit?

If the verses said to always look out only for the interest of others, what would you do?

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Read 2 Corinthians 13:11–14:

Final Greetings

¹¹ Finally, brothers,^[a] rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another,^[b] agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All the saints greet you.

¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Read Ephesians 5:1–21:

Walk in Love

⁵ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

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¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Our heart for each other is to always walk in the Kingdom. But to be in the Kingdom, what must we do?

Read Galatians 5:16; 22–25:

Keep in Step with the Spirit

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Why should His will be sought?

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HOW DO WE LIVE IN UNITY?

Read Colossians 3:12–17:

¹² Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

We live in the Kingdom by surrendering our will—in love—together. He says we are to let peace rule our life. The word rule in this context means umpire. What does an umpire do?

How does this relate to us?

LESSON 2

HOW DO WE LIVE IN UNITY?

What are we to do?

Read Romans 8:9–17; 26–32:

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus^[a] from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Heirs with Christ

¹² So then, brothers,^[b] we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons^[c] of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because^[a] the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[b] for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

LESSON 2

HOW DO WE LIVE IN UNITY?

God's Everlasting Love

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be^[c] against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Who can be against God's will?

Since He is for you, why don't you stay where He can fulfill all that He has for you—in the Kingdom?

Are you going to have trouble?

Are you absent of trouble?

The only one who causes you to remain in the trouble is you. Why is this so?

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HOW DO WE LIVE IN UNITY?

Read Ephesians 4:15–16; 25–32:

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

What are unwholesome words when trying to process God's will?

Why does this grieve the Spirit?

LESSON 2

HOW DO WE LIVE IN UNITY?

Instead of pursuing our own agenda, we are to speak the truth in love. What truth are we to speak?

Is it the full truth yet?

Read 1 Kings 3:5–9:

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you."⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

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Read Proverbs 8:32–35:

- ³² “And now, O sons, listen to me:
blessed are those who keep my ways.
- ³³ Hear instruction and be wise,
and do not neglect it.
- ³⁴ Blessed is the one who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting beside my doors.
- ³⁵ For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the Lord,

Read Luke 11:2; 5–13:

² And he said to them, “When you pray, say:
“Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.

⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything?’ ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence^[a] he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for [b] a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

LESSON 2

HOW DO WE LIVE IN UNITY?

How do you live in the Kingdom?

What is key to successfully living in the Kingdom?

Read Acts 15:1–6:

The Jerusalem Council

15 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.^[a]⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.⁵ But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.

LESSON 2

HOW DO WE LIVE IN UNITY?

Is it okay to disagree?

The Jews argued that when you receive Christ, you also need to be circumcised. Why did they believe this?

As a couple, can you live in disagreement?

Read verse six again. What does it say? Let's go do what?

LESSON 2

HOW DO WE LIVE IN UNITY?

Read Proverbs 11:14; 15:22:

¹⁴ Where there is no guidance, a people falls,
but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

²² Without counsel plans fail,
but with many advisers they succeed.

Read John 8:28–32:

²⁸ So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. ²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” ³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

The Truth Will Set You Free

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”



LESSON 3

HOW DO WE WORK THROUGH DISAGREEMENTS— DEEPEN UNITY WITH GOD



“God gives us the wonderful process of coming to unity with our spouse, our friends, our inner circle.”

Read James 1:5–8:

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

If you lack wisdom, what are you supposed to do?

When do you lack wisdom?

God is not there for only the big issues, while you try to handle the small ones yourself. Where would you draw the line on that? Who decides the size of the issue?

LESSON 3

HOW DO WE WORK THROUGH DISAGREEMENTS— DEEPEN UNITY WITH GOD

When you ask for wisdom, but actually never expect to hear God’s answer, He can’t give it to you because you are being double-minded. What constitutes being double-minded?

Read 1 Kings 10:1–3:

The Queen of Sheba

10 Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions. ² She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices and very much gold and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. ³ And Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her.

The Queen of Sheba represents us, while Solomon represents God, as all of Solomon’s wisdom comes from God. What did Sheba bring? What did she say to him? What did she ask him?

LESSON 3

HOW DO WE WORK THROUGH DISAGREEMENTS— DEEPEN UNITY WITH GOD

Upon hearing all of her questions, what did Solomon do?

Read Hebrews 10:19–25; 35–11:3:

The Full Assurance of Faith

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers,^[c] since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.³⁷ For,

“Yet a little while,
and the coming one will come and will not delay;
³⁸ but my righteous one shall live by faith,
and if he shrinks back,
my soul has no pleasure in him.”

³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

LESSON 3

HOW DO WE WORK THROUGH DISAGREEMENTS— DEEPEN UNITY WITH GOD

By Faith

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

We are called to be bold and go where?

Why is this a privilege?

LESSON 3

HOW DO WE WORK THROUGH DISAGREEMENTS— DEEPEN UNITY WITH GOD

Read Malachi 3:16–18:
(We discovered this truth on one of our retreats in France.)

The Book of Remembrance

¹⁶ Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. ¹⁷ “They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸ Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Discussing things together is prayer as God is listening and responding. We are to continue asking each other about our thoughts and acknowledge what is understood. What is God trying to show us as we talk it through?

Read 1 John 5:14–15:

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

He says that if you pray according to His will, He will hear you. If you pray according to His will, what is required of you?

LESSON 3

HOW DO WE WORK THROUGH DISAGREEMENTS— DEEPEN UNITY WITH GOD

If you pray according to His will, He will hear you. What is He listening for?

Read John 15:7–8:

⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Read John 14:12–14:

¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[a] anything in my name, I will do it.

We are called to do greater works. He's not talking about magnitude. Can you do better than the resurrection? Probably not. It is not about doing something more magnificent. It is literally about doing a greater number of works. It is really simple. We can all do greater numbers. How is this possible?

LESSON 3

HOW DO WE WORK THROUGH DISAGREEMENTS— DEEPEN UNITY WITH GOD

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1–5:

Prophecy and Tongues

14 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ² For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. ³ On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. ⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵ Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

Read Matthew 18:18–20:

¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed^[a] in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

When you gather in His name, how do you go about doing this?

LESSON 3

HOW DO WE WORK THROUGH DISAGREEMENTS— DEEPEN UNITY WITH GOD

Read Acts 12:5–19:

⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Peter Is Rescued

⁶ Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. ⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands. ⁸ And the angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” ⁹ And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. ¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.”

¹² When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. ¹³ And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ Recognizing Peter’s voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate. ¹⁵ They said to her, “You are out of your mind.” But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, “It is his angel!” ¹⁶ But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷ But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, “Tell these things to James and to the brothers.”^[a] Then he departed and went to another place.

¹⁸ Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. ¹⁹ And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and spent time there.

LESSON 3

HOW DO WE WORK THROUGH DISAGREEMENTS— DEEPEN UNITY WITH GOD

Read 1 Samuel 23:1–13:

David Saves the City of Keilah

23 Now they told David, “Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are robbing the threshing floors.”² Therefore David inquired of the LORD, “Shall I go and attack these Philistines?” And the LORD said to David, “Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah.”³ But David’s men said to him, “Behold, we are afraid here in Judah; how much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?”⁴ Then David inquired of the LORD again. And the Lord answered him, “Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand.”⁵ And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines and brought away their livestock and struck them with a great blow. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

⁶ When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech had fled to David to Keilah, he had come down with an ephod in his hand.⁷ Now it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, “God has given him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars.”⁸ And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.⁹ David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, “Bring the ephod here.”¹⁰ Then David said, “O LORD, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account.¹¹ Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, the God of Israel, please tell your servant.” And the Lord said, “He will come down.”¹² Then David said, “Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?” And the LORD said, “They will surrender you.”¹³ Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the expedition.

LESSON 3

HOW DO WE WORK THROUGH DISAGREEMENTS— DEEPEN UNITY WITH GOD

David went to his men and told them they were going to battle in this town against the Philistines. How did his men respond?

Given their response, what options did David have?

What did David do?



History of **Abide Ministries**



In the 1990s, Rich and Linda Case received a call from God to dig into what it means to truly live in the Spirit.

In the 1990s, Rich and Linda Case received a call from God to dig into what it means to truly live in the Spirit. They had been believers for most of their lives and regularly attended church and Bible studies, but began to realize that, despite knowing the Bible intellectually, their personal experiences seemed disconnected from the promises and truths found in scripture. As they then learned these essential truths through their abiding and hearing God's voice – and began to see the grand life play out in their lives God called them to give that knowledge away. In 2001, God initiated the ABIDE ministry at a retreat with friends in Austria, and through their personal experience of this abiding life, their friends noticed the change in their lives and inquired if Rich and Linda could host a similar retreat the following year. This was repeated three years in a row, and then God called them to host weekend retreats in their home in Colorado.

Through the formal development of the truths revealed by God with Abiding and additional electives, they founded All for Jesus – Living Waters Ministries, now Abide Ministries – and have seen it grow exponentially since then, with 24+ retreat leaders all over the world, 29 online courses, eight books on various aspects of living life with Christ, and a daily podcast. Rich and Linda have also worked with various churches to strengthening them with the truths of an abiding life in Christ, and seeing Christ bring reconciliation and new vision to desperate situations.

Their heart is to bring the truths and promises of God to as many people as possible, showing everyone that when you abide in Christ and seek Him daily, your life can be completely and utterly transformed – enabling you to experience the grand life promised by God.



Vision

At our core, we believe in walking along God's path and connecting to the vine (abiding). As we walk in unity with others and understand God's Word as the truth, we are sure to experience His promised grand life and thus, willingly accept God's will as our chosen path.



Mission

- 1.** Live out and invite everyone to experience the grand, spectacular, abundant life by hearing God's voice.
- 2.** Share God's majesty, a close relationship with us as he yearns for our restoration.
- 3.** God is majestic, grand and pure goodness, so that we can experience His nature in real life.
- 4.** Communicate to everyone, irrespective of their condition, that all are meant to experience God's Divine Life (grand, majestic), by receiving His personal plan for us.
- 5.** God delivers this life for us in a SUPERNATURAL way, transcending human comprehension, and thus, becoming normal in our life.
- 6.** Teach that personal truths are revealed to us by God, grounded on His word – the embodiment of Truth.
- 7.** Recognize that abiding in Christ changes our life in tangible, real ways, and is not just learning about or studying this life.
- 8.** Teach that as we abide in Christ, we learn to understand and amp; follow God's will for our lives, as He leads us personally into His grand, Divine plan for us. His personal plan calls us into His bigger story with our best interest at heart (blessed to bless others).

Statement of Non-Profit Status

Abide Ministries is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that has been fully funded by our founders, leaders and retreat participants since its inception.

Tax-ID number: 27-1731819

Testimonies

“If I’m not abiding, I feel like I’m dying. Abiding is living...It’s powerful to know that you have God’s perspective on something.”



Steve

“This was the first time that I understood what people meant by God’s living Word. And I’ve been a Christian for a lot of years, but this was the first time it really came alive for me and I really could experience that.”



Dan

“It doesn’t matter where you are at in your walk. If you just got saved yesterday or if you’ve been a 20+ year believer like i have, learning how to hear God’s voice and learning His will is just as important in day one as it is in day 3,426. You wanna hear God’s will and this course has helped me hear Him more clearly.”



Bob

“Abiding turned out to be the most transformational thing I’ve ever had since salvation in my Christian walk and in our marriage, and it’s just been amazing. God has a path for us and He is there and He’s showing it to us.”



Heath

“Before, in my quiet time, it was more of a checklist thing for me to do in the morning, and, honestly, some mornings it was the thing that went if I was busy, and some days it didn’t even happen. Now, it’s become so personal to me and the time flies by in the morning and God speaks so directly to me and I just never felt that way on a daily basis before. That has been life-altering for me.”



Rebecca

“I heard about people living in peace, I heard about people living in joy, and realizing all kinds of things around them are happening. And then we realize, wait a minute, we’re there, we have peace beyond understanding.”



Brad

Giving to the Ministry

Have you experienced abundant blessing from your time with Abide Ministries?

Pay it forward by donating at abideministries.com/donate and help us support others in learning how to seek Christ and abide in Him! We appreciate your desire to help us share the Abundant Life with the rest of the world.



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Podcast

Escape the chaos and uncertainty of the world with our podcast, ***“Come and See, Finding Truth in a World of Chaos,”*** available on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify.



CHANNEL



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Tune in five days a week as our hosts, Rich Case and Kathy Rocconi, dive into the scriptures and discuss what it looks like to live an abiding life with Christ. Join us as we seek God’s truth in a world of turmoil and darkness.

Online Courses



Abide Ministries online courses uncover life-changing biblical truths, with practical application and wisdom. Our courses are joyful and life-giving and are perfect for small groups as well as individuals.

Each course has an accompanying workbook. Join us as we learn about biblical topics like Hearing God's Voice, Discerning God's Will, the Covenant, Living in Forgiveness, Living in the Kingdom of God, Living in the Supernatural, Christ, Clutter and the Calendar, Living the Grand Life, and many, many more.



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Abide Retreats



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Do you have friends or a small group that you would like to experience what you just experienced?

Would you be interested in attending another retreat, which we call electives to go deeper in your walk with God?

See the various options on our website.
The topics for retreats and courses are the same.

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