

Lesson 2-8 One Accord

1. How healthy is your church on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 not healthy and 10 very healthy)?

2. Does your church have vision?

3. Does your church have an effective method of decision making?

4. Do your attendees know each other and love each other and forgive each other?

5. Are the believers in your church of one mind, one spirit, and in one accord?

6. Consider a church where the pastor proposes building an educational building for the growing Sunday school program. The board meeting results in a 7 to 6 vote approving the building program. Can you see any potential problems in the future of this church?

7. Consider the situation above (item 7) except the vote is 12 to 1 in favor of approving the building program. Should they proceed with the program?

8. What happens to the one person who was not in favor of the program?

9. Who knew the will of the Holy Spirit? the 12 or the 1?

10. If the church has a 12 to 1 decision, is the church divided?

11. What is more important, making a decision or uniting the church?

12. Is it possible to have a church with all believers in total agreement?

13. In the early church, shortly after Pentecost, the church was in agreement, i.e. one accord. The result was miraculous and powerful. The world was changed. Why do you think they were of one accord?

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch....

Philippians 2:2 Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

14. Have you ever been in a church where all believers were of one accord?

15. In Acts 15:22-26, we encounter an example of how the early church solved a problem. The 22nd verse shows the unity of the whole church. The 25th verse implies that it took some effort to be of "one accord."

Act 15:22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul

Act 15:25 it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you

16. In seeking a solution for this problem, why didn't the church simply ask the apostles what to do. After all, they were highly respected and had been with Jesus; they were eye witness to His life and works?

17. The Bible teaches us that we, the believers, are the body of Christ and Christ is the head of the church. Colossians 1:18

Colossians 1:18 And he (Jesus) is the head of the body, the church.

The early church knew the importance of keeping Christ as the head of the church, His spiritual body. And its members, as working parts of his body, working in one accord.

18. In your church, who is the head?

19. So how can we be of one accord? We, the Jecrois team, have developed a tool that can unify the church, bind believers together and obtain direction from the Holy Spirit. We refer to this concept as the Round Table and it works as follows:

The Round Table

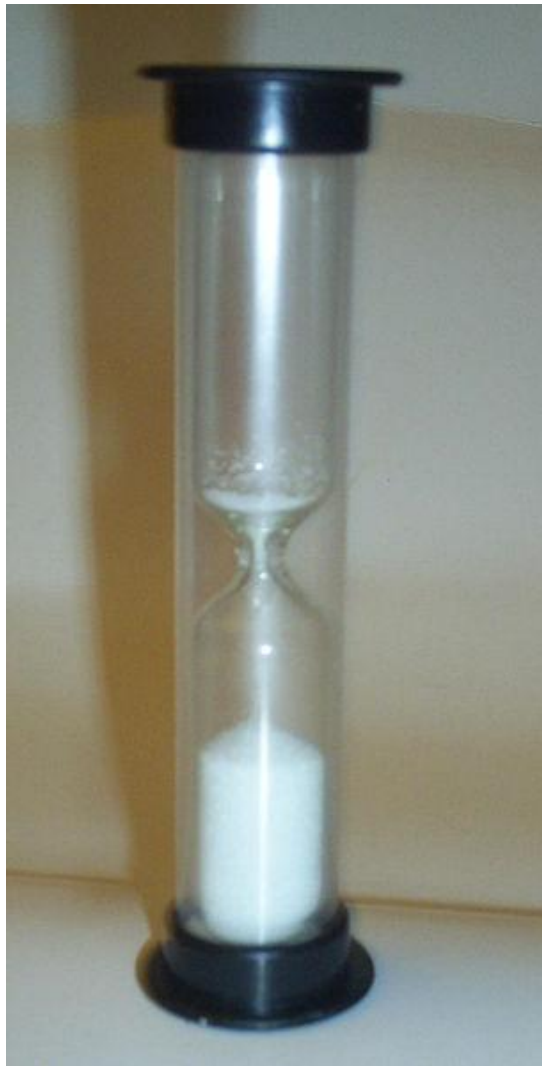
Set a Meeting Time

Invite everyone who is interested.

Appoint a Facilitator

Someone who is good in dealing with people and loves God. Someone who has the ability to forgive and knows the Scriptures. Note: the facilitator should talk little, but when he/she does, he/she should build up others and create the air of love for God and one another. If you have a large attendance, divide into more Round Table groups. Ten per group should be the approximate maximum number.

How to Begin



A Time to Talk

At the beginning of the meeting allow each attendee, in turn and without anyone interrupting, to talk about anything. It is important to use a timer (a three minute egg timer works great) because it limits each attendee's time to talk. When the allocated time is finished, the timer is passed to the next person (Note: the facilitator may choose to impose rules, such as: no gossip, no complaining, etc.)

A Time to Listen

After the last attendee has spoken, set the timer again. Now it is time to listen, listen for the voice of God.

A Time to Discuss

When the listening time is over, the facilitator, or designee, should introduce a topic/topics for discussion. Each attendee again will have an appointed time (limited by the timer) to give his/her ideas about the chosen topic/topics. Everyone else should remain quiet and not ask questions or comment. Every idea should be respected. We are all servants of Christ.

One Accord

No decision should be implemented unless everyone is enthusiastically for it (of one mind). If people are not in agreement on the decision that must be made, prayer meetings should be held until everyone is in one accord.

The purpose of the Round Table is to allow everyone a time to share their ideas, a time for the Holy Spirit to speak and a time to create unity and love within the body of Christ, the church.

The Round Table meeting is not a prayer meeting in the sense of making requests, it is a working meeting with the emphasis on receiving ideas and direction directly from the Holy Spirit and indirectly from other believers. Prayer meetings should be held in addition to and as a result of Round Table sessions.

Please read John 17:22-23

John 17:22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,
John 17:23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (Jesus' prayer to the Father)

Note: If the church is to function as the "Body of Christ," Jesus must be the head and the rest of us members, none being more important than the other.

The pastor and other leaders, by faith, should be very careful not to dominate the meetings, but to lift up Jesus as the head and the Holy Spirit as our guide. This is the most important feature of the Round Table.

Note: If a church truly allows Christ to be the head and the Holy Spirit the Guide, Pentecost will be realized or exceeded.

Note: All decisions made by the Round Table must align with the Bible.

Note: There will be troublemakers in the meetings, but they will leave if the rules are followed.

20. Conclusion: Don't be satisfied with a divided church. The power of the church is in the member's love for God, their love for one another, and in their unity (one spirit - one mind).