1. Why is Christian unity so important?

- Christian unity is important because Christ died to secure it and it is a major factor in our witness to the world.

**Ephesians 2:13-16 (ESV)**

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

**John 17:20-23 (ESV)**

20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 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.

2. What is biblical Christian unity?

- Biblical Christian unity is not primarily outward, but rather is an unseen reality based on shared life in Christ.

**Ephesians 4:1-6 (ESV)**

1 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.

- The unity of the Spirit is already a fact for believers, but we must be eager or diligent to preserve it.

**1 Corinthians 12:13 (ESV)**

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
3 things unity is NOT:

  o Christian unity is not organizational unity.
  o Christian unity is not uniformity.
  o Christian unity is not unanimity on every doctrine.

There are 3 broad levels of Bible doctrines:

(a) **Essential truths, necessary for salvation.** These include: The inspiration and authority of the Bible; the trinity; the full deity and humanity of Jesus Christ; His substitutionary death on the cross; His bodily resurrection and second coming; and, salvation by grace through faith alone, apart from works.

(b) **Important, but non-saving, truth.** God’s sovereignty versus human free will in our salvation; views of baptism; church government; biblical prophecy; old earth or young earth creation; charismatic gifts; roles of men and women in the church and home; Christians and psychology; and, divorce and remarriage.

(c) **Interesting, but not essential or important matters.** These issues won’t affect how you live your Christian life. They include minor interpretive issues on difficult texts; some methods that are not mandated by Scripture; and other issues. For example: Who were the sons of God in Genesis 6? When does the battle in Ezekiel 38 take place? Did Christ descend into hell (1 Pet. 3:19-20)?

- Biblical Christian unity is an unseen truth based on shared life through saving faith in Christ.

**Ephesians 4:4-6 (ESV)**

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.