

19 February 1993, Erev Shabbat Brazil
Visible Unity

Think not that we have passed from death to life unless we are in that unity that the Son of God prayed for — Jn 17:21 — perfect unity of the body of Messiah. Our Master came to establish the body here on earth. Jn 17:15 — "Don't take them out of the world, but protect them." Verse 14 — "They are not of the world any more than I am. Set them apart by the truth — your word is the truth." What He is saying is that the church is in the world. We are in the church. We are not in the world but in the church. And there is that perfect unity, complete submission that He talks about — within this church. Therefore we are being trained to rule with Messiah in the next age. No action is uncoordinated — on your own initiative. We are being trained to rule with Messiah. For this we are here in the Edah, whom He calls, "My witness, My future wife."

Tonight we offer ourselves to Him and enter into His wonderful rest. We want to enjoy that perfect unity among us. In the first church they were devoted to fellowship. No one was hanging onto anything. All the wealth was distributed, there were no rich or poor; it was a commonwealth of Israel in total. We lay down our lives for one another. He said, "I want you to love one another as I have loved you." Don't think you've passed out of death if you aren't laying down your life for your brothers, living in the church. We no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who died for us. And we experience that perfect unity that He prayed for — without division, without difference of opinion. The body is not just a mystical unity, but it has to be visible, something that is observable. It would be ridiculous to think of invisible unity. This unity is observable unity, unity of soul, something the world can see and understand. This is His prayer. This is our dedication. The church are people who our Master died for, people who live for one another. Who do you live for?

Our unity has to be as the Father and the Son — no separation. "Let them be one as We are one." — This means they have one mind. Did He mean that prayer? Will He get it answered? We have to live by His spirit. Any separation in us is dividing the body. We have to give Him what He wants so that the world can believe in the name of the Son.

