

Shall We Promote Church Unity?

Stanley Toussaint

I. Introduction.

A. Churches are all discussing church unity.

B. Prophetic movements towards church unity: the Man of Sin, the False Prophet, and the Great Harlot.

II. The Man of Sin—the Antichrist. (Revelation 13, Daniel 7, 8, 9, 11, Matthew 24, II Thessalonians 2, Revelation 17, 18, 19)

A. He arises out of the sea symbolizing Gentile power. (Revelation 17:15)

B. The man of sin will be put to death and then come to life again. (Revelation 5:6, 11:7)

C. His reign is empowered by the Dragon who is Satan. (Revelation 12:9)

D. For three and a half years, the man of sin will have total control over the world.

E. The world is looking for leaders, and they will embrace the Man of Sin as their ruler.

F. Christians will stand through patience and endurance on the principle that a person reaps what he sows.

III. The False Prophet. (Revelation 13)

A. He will be another beast of a different sort.

B. He comes out of the land symbolizing Jewish power.

C. He has religious authority, but he speaks like a dragon. False signs will abound. (Matthew 24, II Thessalonians 2)

D. He also has commercial power. People will bear the mark of the beast—666.

IV. The Great Harlot. (Revelation 17)

A. This prostitute will have authority over the antichrist.

B. The woman rules over seven kings.

C. The harlot is the super church of the Western world that controls the False Prophet and the Man of Sin. (Revelation 2:20, Jeremiah 3, Ezekiel 16)

V. What this means to us today.

A. We can expect an increase in false teaching. (I Peter 4, II Timothy 3:1-7, II Peter 2-3)

- B. We must expect to be more and more cramped into a minority.
- C. Christianity will be bound together in a huge hierarchical system.
- D. If a person is in a church that preaches unity at all costs, he had better get out. (Revelation 18:4-5)
- E. We should promote unity but not for the sake of organization.
- F. The only way of salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ. (Genesis 15, Habakkuk 2)

Application questions:

1. How can one distinguish the False Prophet from the Great Harlot?

2. What are signs that we may be approaching the end times today according to the speaker?

3. Why is it important to be wary of unity in the church at times? Explain.

