

THE ADVENTURE CALLED UNITY

Written by Charles R. Fillmore

What is Unity?

I suppose that the question most often asked me is "What is Unity?" I find that trying to answer this question meaningfully is an interesting challenge.

I believe that Unity can make one's life an adventure, because Unity arouses interest in our spiritual nature. It whets our desire to find out what our true relationship with God is. It poses questions to which we must seek understandable answers.

Unity tells us that our minds are our connecting links with God and that if we are to control our spiritual growth and unfoldment, we must control our thinking. Such statements are highly motivating to that part of the intellect, which seeks answers.

In this world of seeming turmoil, conflict and unrest, Unity affirms the bold statement: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28)

To some, this may sound implausible, but it certainly makes one curious to find out the basis on which such a statement can be made.

Unity says that other spiritually illumined people – ministers, priests or religious teachers – can help one get started on the right path for finding God, but ultimately each person must find God individually. In other words, Unity says that true religious growth is a "do-it-yourself project". Others can help you find a beginning: books and lessons can get you started by pointing you in the right direction, but if you truly want to know God, you must become acquainted with God yourself.

Unity does not emphasize formal membership and has never been preoccupied with gaining converts merely for the sake of numbers. In fact, Unity says that one can subscribe to its teachings and still retain membership in any other church. Unity's viewpoint is that there need be no conflict of religious beliefs.

Unity believes that there is good in every religion and that we should keep our minds open in order to find the good when an opportunity is presented. In keeping with this attitude, people of various religions the world over find good in the practical Christian principles taught and promulgated by Unity. Unity has no strict creed or dogma. One might describe Unity as a religious philosophy with an "open end", seeking to find God's truth in all life, wherever it may be.

What Do We Believe?

God gave us freedom of choice. Unfortunately, we have used this freedom to bind ourselves in chains of ignorance. As individuals, we have thrown up walls of self-incrimination and guilt in our consciousness, thus cutting ourselves off from the abundant good that God has for us. Collectively, people have built up false beliefs about sin, sickness and death, causing us to lose sight of the true meaning of life, which is that we are all children of God. As such, it is our privilege, in fact our very *mission*, to be heirs to God's kingdom.

Unity tells us that the number and seriousness of our past mistakes do not matter to God. God holds no grudges and has no account book. For those of us who have gone astray, who have wandered down the wrong pathway, Unity says that there is no depth to which we can sink where God cannot find us, that God is ever ready to give us a helping hand if we sincerely wish to be lifted up.

Unity teaches us that there is a divine law of prosperity, by means of which we can avail ourselves of the riches of the kingdom of heaven. By getting in rhythm with "the law of giving and receiving", as it is often called, we can demonstrate unlimited supply to meet all our needs. The secret is that we must learn to become open, receptive, responsive and obedient to the law in order to make ourselves channels for the inflow and outflow of God's good.

Unity assures us that if just one person has learned the secret of successful living, then anyone can because "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34 KJV).

Unity is an adventure because it teaches us how to pray affirmatively. Our prayer ministry, Silent Unity, has been answering requests for prayer from around the world since 1890. A group of dedicated people is in prayer 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Have they learned how to help other people pray? I wish you could see the thousands of testimonials Silent Unity receives!

Prayer in its purest form is simple. It is a matter of concentrating one's entire intellect on God, affirming a positive statement of truth, meditating on divine Principle and finally turning within one's own being in a wonderful time of quiet which Unity calls "the silence", wherein one becomes receptive to the "still small voice" of God.

Finally, Unity is an adventure because it brings God and heaven right down to the here and now and makes God available as a full-time partner in our daily living.

Even in this space age, we have a tendency to visualise God on a golden throne, in a heaven with pearly gates, somewhere off in "the far beyond". In times of trouble, some of us still pray to a great man with long, white whiskers. We often betray our belief in an anthropomorphic God when a seeming miracle happens in life, which causes us to say "I owe it all to the man upstairs" or "Someone up there must love me!"

Today leading theologians realise that we must expand our thinking where God is concerned if we are to keep the findings of science and religion compatible.

Unity says that "heaven can't wait". Too many people are putting off heaven until sometime in the future. But, it can't wait. It is around and about us here and now, pressing in upon us, waiting for us to acknowledge and accept it. Each of us is a unique, spiritual creation, a divine original with his or her own special God-given spark, capable of becoming a channel for God's love to pour forth into the world. That is God's plan. It is up to us to get into harmony with it.

Yes, life can become a thrilling adventure! Unity helps us on this magnificent adventure by arousing our curiosity about our spiritual nature, by telling us how to be open and receptive to our good, and by helping us learn to pray successfully and to make God a full-time partner in our lives.

Of course, it is not possible for me to tell you all about Unity in these few pages. We do want to share with you "the adventure called Unity", however, and we are eager to send you more information upon request.

How do we serve in the UK?

Unity World Headquarters publishes books, pamphlets, affirmation cards, a wall calendar and bi-monthly magazines. Here in the UK we have access to all these materials and print the British version of Daily Word.

We would be delighted to post you a welcome pack, which includes a current copy of the Daily Word: <https://www.unityuk.org/welcome-pack/>

Daily Word is our magazine for daily prayer and meditation. Each page carries an affirmation for that day, an inspirational message and a Scripture quotation. The magazine also features poetry, articles and other special material: <https://www.unityuk.org/daily-word-subscribe/>

Daily Word in Large Print is published to meet the needs of those who cannot comfortably read smaller print. It is also posted free of charge to those who are registered blind or unable to easily read printed material.

Specific information regarding this can be found here: <https://www.unityuk.org/audio-daily-word/>

Our prayer ministry, Silent Unity in the UK, is the heart and soul of our Unity work. It is affiliated to Silent Unity at Unity World Headquarters. We have a dedicated team of professionals who will pray affirmatively with anyone who calls, writes or emails us.

Contact details are:

Email: silent.unity@unityuk.org

Tel.: 01628 628916

Write: Unity 10 Lake End Court, Taplow Road, Taplow, Bucks. SL6 0JQ

We hold regular prayer meetings online:

<https://www.unityuk.org/silent-unity-prayer-service/>

We also have free resources you can access via our website:

<https://www.unityuk.org/prayer-resources/>

We offer workshops, retreats and discussion groups, also supporting home prayer and study groups within the UK.

Affiliated to the Association of Unity Leaders and Ministries UK, we are connected to the Unity groups and centres who support our local Unity family: <http://aulm-uk.org/>

Any questions, please call the office: 01628 628915

Or visit our website: www.unityuk.org