



# Misunderstandings and Maintaining Unity

Joshua 22



# Yucatán Peninsula

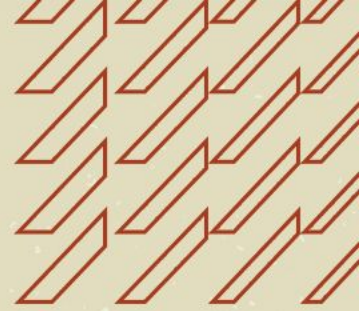
Tetec dtan. Ma t natic a dtan

# Yucatán Peninsula

Tetec dtan. Ma t natic a dtan

Translation: You speak very rapidly; we don't understand your language.

# When misunderstandings occur how can we maintain unity?



We can maintain unity by remembering faithfulness if the foundation of our unity, that we should respond with an informed zeal for righteousness, that we should radiate humility in our responses, and that we should recall what binds us together.



# Misunderstandings and Maintaining Unity

## I. Remember Faithfulness (22:1-8)

# Joshua 22:1-4

1 Joshua summoned the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh 2 and told them, "You have done everything Moses the LORD's servant commanded you and have obeyed me in everything I commanded you. 3 You have not deserted your brothers even once this whole time but have carried out the requirement of the command of the LORD your God. 4 Now that he has given your brothers rest, just as he promised them, return to your homes in your own land that Moses the LORD's servant gave you across the Jordan."

# Numbers 32:29–30

29 Moses told them, “If the Gadites and Reubenites cross the Jordan with you, every man in battle formation before the LORD, and the land is subdued before you, you are to give them the land of Gilead as a possession. 30 But if they don’t go across with you in battle formation, they must accept land in Canaan with you.”

# Joshua 22:5

5 “Only carefully obey the command and instruction that Moses the LORD’s servant gave you: to love the LORD your God, walk in all his ways, keep his commands, be loyal to him, and serve him with all your heart and all your soul.”

# Deuteronomy 6:4-9

4 “Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. 7 Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.

# Misunderstandings and Maintaining Unity

## I. Remember Faithfulness (22:1-8)

# Psalm 119:1–4

1 How happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk according to the LORD's instruction! 2 Happy are those who keep his decrees and seek him with all their heart. 3 They do nothing wrong; they walk in his ways. 4 You have commanded that your precepts be diligently kept.

# Misunderstandings and Maintaining Unity

- I. Remember Faithfulness (22:1-8)
- II. Respond with an Informed Zeal for Righteousness (22:9-20)

# Joshua 22:10

10 When they came to the region of the Jordan in the land of Canaan, the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh built a large, impressive altar there by the Jordan.

# Joshua 22:11–12

11 Then the Israelites heard it said, “Look, the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh have built an altar on the frontier of the land of Canaan at the region of the Jordan, on the Israelite side.” 12 When the Israelites heard this, the entire Israelite community assembled at Shiloh to go to war against them.

# Joshua 22:13–16

13 The Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest to the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, in the land of Gilead. 14 They sent ten leaders with him—one family leader for each tribe of Israel. All of them were heads of their ancestral families among the clans of Israel.

# Joshua 22:13–16

15 They went to the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, in the land of Gilead, and told them,  
16 “This is what the LORD’s entire community says: ‘What is this treachery you have committed today against the God of Israel by turning away from the LORD and building an altar for yourselves, so that you are in rebellion against the LORD today?’

# Proverbs 19:2

2 Even zeal is not good without knowledge, and the one who acts hastily sins.

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- I. Remember Faithfulness (22:1-8)
- II. Respond with an Informed Zeal for Righteousness (22:9-20)
- III. Radiate Humility (22:21-29)

# Joshua 22:21–23

21 The Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh answered the heads of the Israelite clans, 22 “The Mighty One, God, the LORD! The Mighty One, God, the LORD! He knows, and may Israel also know. Do not spare us today, if it was in rebellion or treachery against the LORD 23 that we have built for ourselves an altar to turn away from him. May the LORD himself hold us accountable if we intended to offer burnt offerings and grain offerings on it, or to sacrifice fellowship offerings on it.

# Joshua 22:26-27

26 “Therefore we said: Let’s take action and build an altar for ourselves, but not for burnt offering or sacrifice. 27 Instead, it is to be a witness between us and you, and between the generations after us, so that we may carry out the worship of the LORD in his presence with our burnt offerings, sacrifices, and fellowship offerings. Then in the future, your descendants will not be able to say to our descendants, ‘You have no share in the LORD!’

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# Proverbs 29:23

23 A person's pride will humble him, but a humble spirit will gain honor.

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- III. Radiate Humility (22:21-29)
- IV. Recall what Binds us Together (22:30-34)

# Joshua 22:30–31

30 When the priest Phinehas and the community leaders, the heads of Israel's clans who were with him, heard what the descendants of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh had to say, they were pleased. 31 Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest said to the descendants of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh, "Today we know that the LORD is among us, because you have not committed this treachery against him. As a result, you have rescued the Israelites from the LORD's power."

# Joshua 22:32-34

32 Then the priest Phinehas son of Eleazar and the leaders returned from the Reubenites and Gadites in the land of Gilead to the Israelites in the land of Canaan and brought back a report to them. 33 The Israelites were pleased with the report, and they blessed God. They spoke no more about going to war against them to ravage the land where the Reubenites and Gadites lived. 34 So the Reubenites and Gadites named the altar: It is a witness between us that the LORD is God.

# Ephesians 2:12–16

12 At that time you were without Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In his flesh,

# Ephesians 2:12–16

15 he made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that he might create in himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace. 16 He did this so that he might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by which he put the hostility to death.

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