



UNITY is the watchword of the Baha'í Faith: unity of God, unity of religion, unity of humanity. Baha'ís consider Baha'u'llah, Prophet-Founder of the Baha'í Faith, to be the latest Messenger from God in the line of Messengers including Abraham, Krishna, Moses, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad.

The appearance of every Messenger or Revelator brings with it a particular and central theme in accordance with the needs and conditions of a particular period of history. The theme of Krishna was "duty," the theme of Moses was "obedience," the theme of Buddha was "compassion," the theme of Jesus was "love," the theme of Muhammad was "submission." The particular and central theme of the revelation of Baha'u'llah is "unity."

The world today is afflicted with a deep spiritual disorder manifested in many ways, including: rampant materialism, moral decay, widespread and flagrant injustice, and pervasive and virulent prejudices, among others. These factors and others give rise to a divisive and antagonistic attitude among a significant number of peoples, cultures and nations of the world. The teachings of Baha'u'llah, the Divine Physician for this age, address these personal and societal disorders in terms of specific principles that embody the elements of "unity." Paramount among these is recognizing and embracing the incontrovertible truth that humanity is one. Without this foundational belief, building a just and peaceful world is impossible. Other elements prescribed in the Baha'í Writings essential to achieving this "oneness" are: elimination of prejudice of all kinds - cultural, social, racial, religious; the equality of women and men; the harmonious and complimentary aspects of science and religion; the acceptance of a universal auxiliary language to allow unfettered communication among the peoples of the world; and establishment of an international organization to assure the peace and security among the nations of the world.

Baha'ís stand ready to work with their co-religionists to address and root out whatever is the source of contention and divisiveness amongst the world's peoples to achieve the 'divine mandate' for this age - unity. It is achievable but it demands determined, concentrated and persistent effort to eradicate all the countervailing forces thwarting its consummation - a consummation for which the sacred scriptures of mankind have, throughout its religious history, constantly held the promise.

Baha'ís of this area may be contacted by phoning 618-656-4142. You will get a recorded message and may leave a phone number for someone to contact you to learn about meeting times and dates, arrange for a speaker at your church or organization, or to attend a study class. [Bahai.Edwardsville@gmail.com](mailto:Bahai.Edwardsville@gmail.com) is the email address. A website to obtain more detailed information is: [www.Bahai.us](http://www.Bahai.us).