

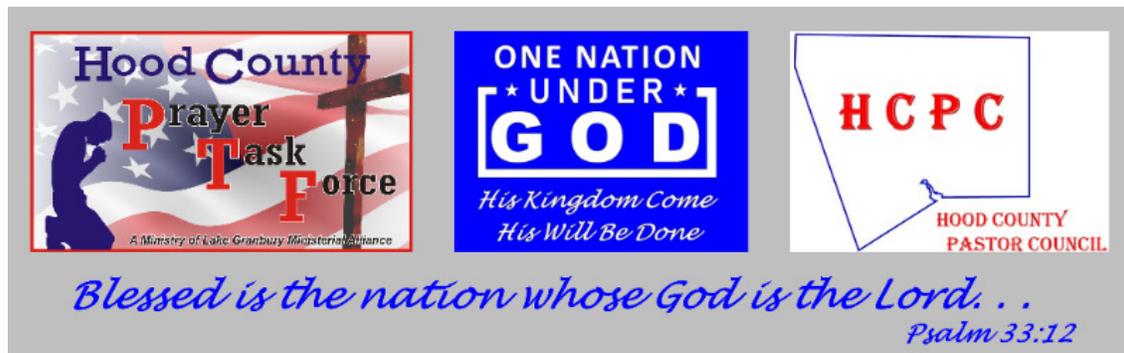
## Fred Orcutt

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**From:** Hood County Prayer Task Force <ptf@granburyministries.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:59 AM  
**To:** fred@orcutfamily.net  
**Subject:** ONE NATION UNDER GOD Devotional - October 25, 2018

ONE NATION UNDER GOD Devotional

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### God Desires His Church to Work Together

He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:10-16 (ESV)

## Reflections

How many things can we think of that work better when “each part is working properly”? Of course, our own bodies, yes, but how about our cars, our computers, our families, our government? Is it any wonder then that God uses this example to help us understand how His church, in all its various manifestations, is to work together to “make the body grow”? He doesn’t ask or expect us to all worship exactly the same - but He does ask that we be like-minded and work together in unity. And to what purpose, you might ask . . . a bigger body or fancier buildings? No, to be a body that “builds itself up in love.” That is, to be faithful people that treat each other with patience and kindness, that do not boast or have envy amongst each other, that are not arrogant or rude, insisting on their own way, who are not irritable, resentful or rejoicing at the wrongdoing of others, but instead rejoice with the truth even when presented by a church not their own. How many of us can say with all honesty that we see other believers that way? So when we consider all the many churches here in our own county (ChurchFinder lists 44 in 13 different categories), how are we to relate to one another? Are we to confine ourselves to the work of our own small fingernail of the Body of Christ or are we to seek out ways to be united in faith and cooperate in leading others to a saving faith in Christ and the outpouring of His heart for the people of His world?

## Prayer

Lord, you are faithful and good to teach us the same thing

## Challenge

Honor the other churches in Hood County by responding to their offers of fellowship, helping in their efforts to minister to the community, and praying for them to prosper and grow in the grace and love of our Lord Jesus so that the Gospel is heard and lives are transformed.

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## For Discussion

Specifically what keeps you from working with other churches - maybe arrogance that your church is doing the best work? Maybe you're too busy at your own church?

What does your behavior in regard to

over and over until we learn it, and we ask you today to fill our hearts with love for our brothers and sisters in the faith, to give us your desire to work together in community to meet the needs of the poor and to spread the good news of your son's precious gift of salvation to us on the cross. Heal, O Lord, any divisions among us and forgive us for creating or perpetuating them. We ask you, Jesus, for hearts that beat in unity with the truth you graciously give us in your word and spirit. According to your will, we pray. Amen

other churches teach your children and grandchildren about the unity of the Body of Christ?



Cora Werley is a retired attorney, wife/grandmother and artist, but most enjoys meeting and ministering to the people who stay at the guest cottages she and her husband share with those the Lord sends to experience His peace on Lake Granbury.

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