

Cultural Inclusion and Expansion



Module 2 – Unity

Week 7

Title: What does unity of thought, word and deed mean?

Spiritual Principle: To deepen our understanding of the unity of thought, word, and deed, so that visitors from all faiths and cultures can know that we truly are a universal and all-inclusive multi-faith organization.

Quote:

“One should have unity of thought, word, and deed. If you have unity, then you will attain purity, and purity will lead you to Divinity. Therefore, have purity in order to attain Divinity. Saying one thing and doing something else is not good. This is no unity at all. How can you have purity when you are devoid of unity? Therefore, if you want to have purity, you must have unity.”

– Sathya Sai Speaks, March 07, 2008

<https://sathyasai.us/devotion/discourse/redeem-your-life-good-actions>

Discussion Questions:

1. With regards to Cultural Inclusion and Expansion, can you give examples of how we as individuals sometimes say one thing yet practice something else?

Activity/ Life Application:

[Note to Facilitator - Time permitting few individuals can share a summary of their Pair Share discussion with the bigger group. Life application is an extension of Group activity where the participant practices the Study Circle learnings during the week.]

1. Pair Share
Pair with a person sitting next to you. Take turns answering the following questions. The guidelines in Operations Manual state, “To be welcoming, Sathya Sai Center meetings should have a spiritual basis and not be oriented towards set rituals or to any one religion or language.” Are the *actions* in our center aligned with the *words* in the above guidelines? How or how not?

Affirmation:

[Participants can affirm this every day during the week.]

I practice unity of thought, word and deed in all aspects of my life.

Cultural Inclusion and Expansion



Week 8

Title: What does unity of thought, word and deed mean?

Spiritual Principle: To deepen our understanding of the unity of thought, word, and deed, so that visitors from all faiths and cultures can know that we truly are a universal and all-inclusive multi-faith organization.

Quote:

“All the Chaos in the world is due to the fact that people lead double lives. They say one thing and act differently. There should be unity in thought, word and deed. True spirituality consists in promoting human unity through harmonious living and sharing the joy with one and all. Bhajans and all forms of worship are only good actions, but are spiritually not important. Devotion consists in expressing love towards all. You cannot effect a change of heart by speeches. They often lead to confusion and conflict. Better than speeches is practice of love, with faith in the Divine. Follow the path of love and redeem your lives.”

– Sathya Sai Speaks, March 24, 1989

<https://sathyasai.us/devotion/discourse/let-practice-prevail/>

Discussion Questions:

1. How can our devotional program practically express love towards all so that all in attendance will feel included?
2. What can I do as an individual to promote unity through harmonious living and sharing joy with those from other faiths and cultures in our community?

Activity/ Life Application:

[Note to Facilitator - Time permitting few individuals can share a summary of their Pair Share discussion with the bigger group. Life application is an extension of Group activity where the participant practices the Study Circle learnings during the week.]

1. Pair Share

Pair with a person sitting next to you. First person asks, “I have heard that the Sathya Sai Center is for all cultures and faiths, yet when I visited one, it seems to me to be an Indian/Hindu organization. Can you explain to me how all cultures and faiths are included?” Let the second person respond. Switch roles. Staying within the context of the Spiritual Principle for this Study Circle, what might be the next question? Ask this of your partner. Keep asking questions and responding.

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Affirmation:

[Participants can affirm this every day during the week.]

I practice unity of thought, word and deed in all aspects of my life.

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Week 9

Title: What does unity of thought, word and deed mean?

Spiritual Principle: To deepen our understanding of the unity of thought, word, and deed, so that visitors from all faiths and cultures can know that we truly are a universal and all-inclusive multi-faith organization.

Quote:

“One should not act on the impulse of the moment immediately a thought occurs. The rights and wrongs of an idea should be examined and only when the heart approves of a certain course should action follow. This is the process of cultivating values. What the mind (head) thinks, should be examined critically by the heart and the right decision should be carried out by the hand. This should be the primary product of the educational process.”

– Sathya Sai Speaks, September 24, 1987

<https://sathyasai.us/devotion/discourse/spiritual-basis-value-education>

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we reduce our natural impulse to go with what is most familiar to us? What are some of the challenges we face when attempting to harmonize our thought, word and deed?
2. When it comes to harmonizing our thoughts, words, and deeds, how can we become more heart strong as opposed to head-strong?

Activity/ Life Application:

[Note to Facilitator - Select 2-3 individuals who can role play the scenario for the bigger group. Life application is an extension of Group activity where the participant practices the Study Circle learnings during the week.]

1. Role Play the following scenario:

A person of a Christian faith and culture starts coming regularly to the center. Demonstrate, in a humorous manner, a scenario at the Center where unity of thought, word, and deed is not being followed. Then re-enact a scenario where the actions are corrected to demonstrate unity of thought, word and deed. Time permitting, repeat exercise with people of varying faiths and cultures. (Muslim, Jewish, Hindu of varying ethnicity)

Affirmation:

Cultural Inclusion and Expansion



[Participants can affirm this every day during the week.]

I practice unity of thought, word and deed in all aspects of my life.