



5th Sunday Fellowship Conference
Saturday, June 29, 2024

The Power of Unity
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Every Christian must be in fellowship with other believers and is counseled by Scripture to do so. Hebrews 10:24-25 says,

- And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
- Six out of the ten commandments are directed toward our relationship with others, which in itself is profound.
- Why would God show us how to walk in love with one another if it was perfectly fine and acceptable for us to avoid deep and meaningful relationships with other believers?
- He wouldn't. God desires His people to meet together, encourage each other, and love each other.

Watch thisWhen Jesus prayed,

Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one – John 17:11.

- He was praying for the power of unity as one Body with other believers. We, joined together in fellowship with other Christians, are unified in one mission,
- one heart, and one spirit. As a single Body we are called to walk together toward the will of the Father.

- Our desire is not to please ourselves only, but to please the One who reconciled us to Himself. Fellowship with other Christians is not optional for the Christian, and it is necessary for a healthy, biblical life.

Are you in Fellowship or Fanship?

Fellowship: friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests.: "they valued fun and good fellowship as the cement of the community".

Fanship: one who admires you but one not allowed in your personal space

- **Fan Behavior : Someone who is always stalking your social media's and wanting** to know your business. They may even want to be like you and begin to copy your style/moves ...
- **Fan Out : When a person acts like a groupie or "mega fan" towards a celebrity or person of interest.** I met Michael Jordan at a charity gathering and I had to fan out and ...
- **Super Fan : Mostly a fan of sports teams** but any person who is willing to dress not normally (for sports commonly face painting and body painting) for the sake of the team, ...
- **Fans: Someone who really thinks that persona 5 is the best game ever despite never playing the game in their life.** "Hey did you see that persona fan?" "Yeah he was ...
- Once we let down our walls of insecurity and began sharing with other Christian what we were facing, we became known.
- Our struggles became known and our sin became exposed. You need a (accountability partner)
- Through our vulnerability, other Christians were then able to empathize with us, but also offer comfort, suggestions on how to overcome our struggles, and exhortations on repenting and reconciling.

- **When we became known, we felt a deep level of concern and love from these other believers.**
- **This affirmed our ability to be transparent.**
- **Our experience stripped away the fears of what others would think of us and our anxieties about sharing what we were facing.**
- **Fear is aFalse* Evidence* Appearing* Real**

Jesus taught us that unity was what the Father's heart is for His people. In John 15:5 He says,

- *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*
- Jesus calls Himself a vine, and He calls us His branches, both of which are pieces of a whole.
- In nature, there doesn't exist healthy, thriving branches floating around. Rather, what is seen are healthy, thriving branches connected to the main stem of a plant or trunk of a tree, which is rooted with a strong foundation.
- If there are branches that are found in nature, disconnected and alone, it is either dead or in the process of decaying.
- In 1 Corinthians 12:27 Paul tells us that we "are the body of Christ and individually members of it."
- How can we say we are a branch if we are not growing next to other branches?

- How can we call ourselves members of the body of Christ if we are not connected to the other parts of that same body?
- Satan's war on our effectiveness. One way he will destroy your effectiveness is to convince you and your other believers to walk in complete autonomy and to hide from other believers.
- The devil knows that when believers get together and walk together, they will strike blows into his kingdom.
- Not only that, but as you walk in unity with the body of Christ in community, you become strong and less vulnerable to attack.
- We know why people tend to avoid true biblical fellowship, because we used to avoid it too.
- We know these types of relationships can be messy. We know the possibility and likelihood of hard, uncomfortable conversations.
- We know that with being known comes accountability, and with accountability comes change, which can be painful. We know that being known can seem terrifying.
- However, since experiencing the power of true community and fellowship with the Body of Christ, we have come to know so much more of the good that comes from walking this way,
- in contrast to walking alone and isolated from the Body. We know the benefits of iron sharpening iron.
- We know the in*trin*sic value of being needed and being provided for.

- Intrinsic belonging naturally; essential.: "access to the arts is intrinsic to a high quality of life".
- We know the good that comes from being known, and we are no longer afraid of it.
- Walk in unity with the Body of Christ. Do not be afraid of it. Do not be convinced that you can live without it.
- **This Christian walk is not designed to walk aloneGod said it is not good that man shall be alone.**

What is the meaning of an idle mind is the devil's workshop?

The common phrase "An idle mind is the devil's workshop"

- reminds us that when we are lazy and idle, wicked thoughts quickly enter our minds.
- When a person is overcome by inactivity, all kinds of wicked notions flood his mind, making it the ideal location for the devil to carry out his evil deeds.

What is the biblical meaning of power of unity?

He was praying for the power of unity as one Body with other believers. We, joined together in fellowship with other Christians, are unified in one mission, one heart, and one spirit. As a single Body we are called to walk together toward the will of the Father.

- Unity can bring people together and create a sense of shared purpose.
- In the Bible, it's also seen as a way for God's people to encourage and love each other

Unity is a key theme in the Bible, and several passages mention its power:

- **John 17:11**
- Jesus prays for the power of unity among his disciples, asking God to keep them "one, even as we are one"

Ephesians 4:4-6

- Paul says, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all"

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

- Describes how followers of Christ should work together like a body, with many members that are one body

Scripture describes the experience of unity as “good and pleasant” (Psalm 133:1), and it commands all Christians to diligently pursue “being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord” (Philippians 2:2). “The Bible nowhere promises that the pursuit of unity won’t be as hard as it often is.”

New International Version (Philippians 2:2). then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

New Living Translation(Philippians 2:2). Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

What does God say about unity?

The Savior prayed for unity among His disciples: “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us” (John 17:21). The gospel creates a unity of faith with our Father, our Savior, and our fellow believers (see Ephesians 4:13).

What are the biblical benefits of unity?

Calmness, comfort, and goodness are benefits of unity. As the psalmist said, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Paul told the Thessalonians, “Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing” (1 Thess. 5:11).

What is an example of unity in the Bible?

What is a good example of unity in the Bible? 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 describes how followers of Christ are supposed to work together, like a body. "For as the body is one," reads verse 12, "and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."

What is the deeper meaning of unity?

Unity is being together or at one with someone or something. It's the opposite of being divided. This is a word for togetherness or oneness. When the north won the Civil War, it assured the unity of the United States. Sports teams wear uniforms to show unity, and their fans wear team colors for the same reason.

What is unity spiritually?

Unity stands for peace in the presence of conflict; for love in the presence of hatred; for forgiveness in the presence of injury. Unity honors the many names for God, the many paths to God, the many ways to worship God; for there is only one power and presence of God and that God loves each one of us equally.

What is an example of the power of unity?

In nature we can find the physical power of unity. Let us take a weak metal like copper, which we can twist and turn and take another metal weaker than copper, mix them together we will get bronze which is stronger than the two weaker metals which were combined together to form bronze.