

Deeper Life Notes

Called Out - "Unity" (1 Corinthians 1:10-31))

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Watertown
Evangelical
Free Church

WARM UP

What is the difference between aspirational or experiential unity? Can unity be something that is bad?

READ

John 17

List the petitions of Jesus with verse references

How do these Scriptures relate to the above definition of Christian unity?

John 13:34–35

Ephesians 4:3, 13

1 Corinthians 12:13

Philippians 2:2, 4:2

Romans 12:10, 15:5

Galatians 6:10

1 Peter 1:22, 3:8

Keys to Christian Unity:

Key 1. A clear vision, v.10 "agree"

In the first 10 verses of 1 Corinthians 1, how many times is Jesus Christ mentioned? Why do you think this is?

Our focus should be unity built on the character and capabilities of God, as Paul said, "by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Pray like Jesus - When we trust God in prayer, we boast in the Lord. We demonstrate to our Father that he is our focus not ourselves. He is the one we come to first. We follow Jesus by modeling His dependence on God. (see [John 17](#), Jesus' prayer)

- Focus on the end goal faithfulness and fruitfulness
- Focus on the "us", not the "me, myself and I"

Key 2. Strong leaders, v.10 "I appeal to you"

Describe three ways in which God has given you leadership responsibilities.

The Makeup of a Strong Leader

- Personal involvement
- Affectionate exhortation

Two destructive actions leading to division/strife/schisms in the church.

_____ ¹
_____ ²

Attitudes and actions that lead to unity:

_____ ³

- Deep roots in the Lordship of Christ
- Keep the end in mind, “Boast in the Lord” = Glorify God

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Am I personally engaged in the pursuit of unity here at WEFC?

As we wrestle through the inevitable challenges of following Jesus together – of multiplying followers of Jesus together; are we demanding our own way (fight)? Are we unwilling to take on the tough issues (flight)? Which one might we lean toward. Are we willing to pray: *Lord, use me to promote unity through affectionate exhortation?*

Am I going deeper in my commitment to the rule and reign of Jesus Christ in my life? What is the next step of obedience to His obvious will? Is the Word of God directing my paths? Do you understand “what the Lord requires of you”? (“to do justice, to love mercy, to walk humbly.”)

Is your connection to Christ and the body of Christ characterized by harmony, oneness, unity of mind and judgment? If not what steps are you pursuing to “get on the same page”? What part might you play in being a part of the solution?

Key 3. Healthy relationships

v. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.

Steps toward relational intimacy:

1. Speaking the truth in love
2. Effective listening
3. Responding in a Christ-like way

How do we handle the reality of ‘relational imperfection’?

APPLICATION QUESTION

Are you embittered toward someone or some group because they have failed you – unloving speech, didn't listen, didn't follow through? Again, what is the next step of obedience to Christ? Following implies transformation/change.

To be continued next week...

¹ Inaction

² Over-reaction

³ Peacemaking action

To hear with my heart
To see with my soul
To be guided by a hand I cannot hold
To trust in a way that I cannot see
That's what faith must be

*When the universe fell from His fingertips
He decided He wanted some fellowship
But the man and the woman would not submit
So He made a better way*

**When the moment was right He sent His own son
And He opened the way so that everyone
Could have hope and believe that when time was done
He'd be able to make us one**

*To hear with my heart
To see with my soul
To be guided by a hand I cannot hold
To trust in a way that I cannot see*

Prayer for Believers

*"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope and riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us, now that we believe in Christ."
"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in love by the Holy Spirit."*

**Now I understand that there is a key
It's Jesus in me, a reality
That God is in Christ and that Christ's in me
That with faith I see what is unseen**

Ephesians 1:18; Psalm 64