

Empowered to Be United

January 21, 2024

2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT – Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

1 Corinthians 1:10, LB – But, dear brothers and sisters, I beg you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so that there won't be splits in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

God's Word tells us _____ of the church

Three Reasons Why God Values Unity

John 17:9,11b, NLT – [Jesus said,] “My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. ...Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are.”

1. _____

John 17:20-21a, NIV – [Jesus said,] “I pray also for those who will believe in me...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.”

Ephesians 2:14, NLT – For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

2. _____

John 17:21b,23b (NIV – [Jesus prayed,] “May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ...Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

3. _____

John 17:22-23a, NIV – [Jesus prayed,] “I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.”

Three Ways to Promote Unity in My Relationships

1. The power of unity is _____

1 Corinthians 1:11-13, NLT – For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. Some of you are saying, “I am a follower of Paul.” Others are saying, “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Peter,” or “I follow only Christ.” Has Christ been

divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not!"

Unity is _____

John 14:6, NIV – [Jesus said,] “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

2. _____

1 Corinthians 3:3-4, GW – You still live as the people of this world live. When there is jealousy among you and you quarrel with one another, doesn't this prove that you belong to this world, living by its standards? When one of you says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos”—aren't you acting like worldly people?

Exodus 20:17, NIV – You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Galatians 5:26, NIV – Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Any _____ that brings division is sin.

1 Corinthians 1:10b, LB – Let there be real harmony so that there won't be splits in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

Philippians 2:5, NLT – You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

1 Peter 3:8, LB – You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.

3. _____

1 Corinthians 3:2, NIV – I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

Colossians 3:14, LB – Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony.

1 Peter 4:8, NIV – Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.