

A CULTURE OF UNITY

TEXT: (Genesis 11:6, NIV)

⁶The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them."

INTRODUCTION

1. "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:4, NIV).
2. "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Genesis 5:45, NIV).
- 3 "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1, NIV).
4. "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, NIV).

I. UNITY OF THE BODY

1. "Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?" (I Corinthians 3:1-3, NIV).

A. The Church Is Made of Many Members

1. "Now the body is not made up of one part but of many" (I Corinthians 12:14, NIV).

B. All Members Are Necessary

1. "But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be" (I Corinthians 12:18, NIV).
2. "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'" (I Corinthians 12:21, NIV).

C. No Favorites

1. "Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism'" (Acts 10:34, NIV).
2. "On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor" (I Corinthians 12:22, NIV).

II. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY

A. Preferring One Another

1. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10, NIV).
2. "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification" (Romans 14:19, NIV).

3. "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (I Thessalonians 5:11).
4. "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up" (Romans 15:1-2, NIV).

B. Always Ready to Restore

1. "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:1-2, NIV).

C. Be Friendly

1. "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly" (Proverbs 18:24, KJV).
2. "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:3, NIV).
3. "He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap" (I Timothy 3:7, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1, KJV).
2. "Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting" (Acts 2:2, NIV).