



**Unity**  
**P1 : The Place of Blessing**  
**P2 : The Causes And Cure of Breakdown**  
**Sunday December 02, 2012**

We've been sharing through the latter part of this year on manifesting His glory, on becoming a people who manifest who our God is, and what He does. We also shared several keys to manifesting His glory. We discussed being a holy people, presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice. We talked about learning to walk in our spiritual authority. We also mentioned that in order to be a people of His glory - we must learn to walk in Unity.

We are spending a few Sunday's discussing the topic of Unity among us as a body/community of believers - so that we can truly be a people who manifest His glory.

**Unity - The Place of Anointing, Refreshing, And The Commanded Blessing**  
**Psalm 133:1-3**

**Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!  
2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.**

**3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.**

When brethren dwell in unity -

- They experience the flow of God's anointing oil - the presence and work of the Holy Spirit,
- They experience "dew" - refreshing and renewing
- They experience life and blessing - and the Lord commands it for them. They don't even have to go looking for it, God commands (appoints) life and blessing among a people who dwell in unity.

**Unity - The Key To World Impact**

**John 17:20-23**

**20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;**

**21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.**

**22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:**

**23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.**

Jesus prayed that we may be one in Him, that the world may believe....

Jesus prayed for us to be "made perfect in one", that the world may know...



One of the things that is possibly limiting the church from impacting the world - is the division and disunity that keeps us apart.

### **Book of Acts - Unity At Work**

Several times the phrase "one accord" is used to describe what God was doing among believers:

**Acts 1:14** These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

...and they prepared themselves for the receiving of the outpouring of the Spirit.

**Acts 2:1** When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

...and they received the outpouring of the Spirit and the New Testament church was born.

**Acts 2:46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

...and they saw the rapid growth of the Church, many being saved. They saw a great move of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 4:24** So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,

...and they saw God work great signs and wonders.

**Acts 5:12** And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch.

...and they continued to see great signs and wonders and many were added into the Kingdom of God.

**Acts 8:6** And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

...and the city was reached and there was great joy in the city.

**Acts 15:25** it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

...and they established the counsel of the Lord for the future growth of the Church.

### **Unity - An Intentional Effort**

**Ephesians 4:1-3**

**1** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

**2** with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

**3** endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.



Unity does not happen by accident or chance.  
Maintaining unity must be intentional – must be done on purpose.

Vs 3: “endeavoring” = Greek, literally means “*to use speed, be prompt, to make effort, be diligent*”

Message Bible: Ephesians 4:3 alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.

In the next few verses in Ephesians 4:4-16, Paul emphasizes several “one”s. We are of one faith, have one Father, share in the one Spirit of God, etc., and belong to one Body, though with diverse gifts and callings. Each one of us do what is needed to be joined and knit together (vs 16).

Division is Di-Vision

We cannot be part of the same team and have two different visions. We must all flow together with the vision God has given to us as a local body.

### **Unity Happens When We All Walk In Humility**

#### **Philippians 2:1-11**

- 1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,**
- 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**
- 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.**
- 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.**
- 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,**
- 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,**
- 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.**
- 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.**
- 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,**
- 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,**
- 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Paul reminds us to walk in the “fellowship of the Spirit” – being “like-minded”, being of one accord, of one mind. And then he teaches us how to make this happen:

1, don't do anything out of selfish ambitions, motives or selfish agendas, selfish interest

2, walk in lowliness of mind – because this is the “mind of Christ”, or Christ-like attitude

.....and then He points to the perfect example of Jesus Christ



Submit to and flow with your team leaders – so that you can maintain unity in your teams.

### **1 Corinthians 1:10**

**Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**

Let us strive as a Church to walk in this kind of Unity.

### **Breakdown of Unity - Causes And Cure**

What are some of the causes of breakdown in unity and what would be some of the 'cures'

Will look at a few well known examples in Scripture:

#### ***'Positionalism' - The mother of James and John***

Matthew 20:22-28

The unhealthy desire for rank, a top position, a place of higher importance, etc.

Vs 24 : This almost divided the group

The cure: Philippians 2:1-5

If we all learn to walk in humility, not holding on to a 'position' or 'place' – but committing ourselves to the bigger picture – the good of each other, for the fulfillment of God's purposes, etc. we will be able to keep this dividing factor out of us as a body.

Mark 9:33-37

In the Kingdom of God, you step down to go up.

In the Kingdom of God, even the smallest is to be highly honored, because even the least amongst us represents the Greatest amongst us, the Lord Himself.

Your honor lies not in the place you hold, but in 'what' you represent, or 'who' you represent.

3 John 1:9-11

"who loves to have the preeminence" = "who loves to be first"

Vs 11 : Do not imitate what is evil, wrong, a bad example.

In the local church, we all learn to be servants, not seeking places of position.

#### ***'Stubbornness' - Paul and Barnabas***

Acts 15:35-41

The two leaders in the Antioch church, both remarkable men, both apostles, had differing views on John Mark. John Mark, was a relative of Barnabas (Colossians



4:10) and possibly the author of the Gospel of Mark. He live in Jerusalem with his mother Mary, and it was in their home that the prayer meeting was held to see Peter release from prison (Acts 12:12). John Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas at the start of their first missionary journey but left the team very soon (Acts 13:13).

At the start of the second missionary journey Paul did not want to take John Mark along, while Barnabas wanted to. We don't know who was right here, but neither was willing to yield to the other's position - and this caused a breakdown in the relationship between two of the best leaders in the church.

The cure : Ephesians 4:1-3 Learn to yield in order to keep the unity of the Spirit

There are some battles not worth fighting - yield.

In the local church, we all understand the value of yielding in order to maintain unity.

### ***Cliques, Factions - The Corinthian Church***

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

When we base our Christian walk and identity in some man, a particular message, a specific movement - we become Kingdom dividers, not Kingdom builders.

The cure: 1 Corinthians 3:21 1 Corinthians 4:6

While we respect and honor all men/women whom God has raised, and recognize the revelation God releases through different individuals and the contribution of different movements/denominations in the Body of Christ - our ultimate identity comes from Jesus, and our eyes are on Him.

This does not mean we embrace everything (that is taught) and everyone (who teaches). No we recognize error and walk in wisdom, adhering to the truth revealed, and yet our identity does not come from a doctrine we hold, but comes from the Lord whom we follow.



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>