

Together We Stand, OR \_\_\_\_\_ . (Divided We Fall!)

As a family, we must learn to work together, live together, and stay together!

No matter what we go through. No matter what happens... Together We Stand.

There is only one thing that is better than being a member of the Body of Christ ... it's being a member and walking in unity with the other members.

We need to understand that, in the body of Christ, it's possible to be connected with others because of the work of Christ, yet not be in unity with those you are connected to.

Last week we talked about “Why” we should live together in unity and the results that unity will bring.

- Psalms 133:1-3 told us that living together in Unity is Good and Pleasant
  - In Unity, there is an atmosphere that is good and pleasant.
  - In Unity, the anointing of the Holy Spirit flows freely, completely covering God's people.
  - In Unity, there is a refreshing, like dew on a mountain.
  - In Unity, the Lord will be able to command a blessing and give life evermore.
- We saw that only the works of the Holy Spirit can help us live with One Heart and One Mind.  
*Acts 4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind.*
- The Results of living in unity was Great Power and Great Grace *Acts 4:33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all*
- Paul tells us in *Ephesians 4:3*, Paul states that we should “*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*”
  - He goes on to explain that **one of the goals** of a New Testament Church is to reach unity in the faith.  
*Ephesians 4:11-13*
- The Greatest thing we learned last week was that Jesus prayed that we live in unity.  
*John 17:21 that all of them may be one...*

**Next Life Transformation Step – Today I will begin to agree with Jesus and start praying for Believers Church and all Believers to be one, just like Father God and Christ Jesus are one.**

So, we are convinced that we should be walking in unity, but the question is how do we become one heart, one soul? How do we live together in unity?

### How to Live Together in Unity

**1. To Live Together in Unity, We Must Keep Our Eyes Focused on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of Our Faith.**

*Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus (looking to Jesus, NKJ), the pioneer (author) and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

***If we all seek after Christ Jesus, we will all meet in the same place.***

**2. To Live Together in Unity, We Need the Enabling Power of the Holy Spirit.**

In the natural, we may agree together for a common goal, but sustained and lasting unity will only be possible by yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit.

*John 17:22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.*

Not only will the fullness of the Holy Spirit help us individually be transformed into the image of Jesus, but it will help us walk in unity as well. The same Holy Spirit that is in me is in you as well.

**3. To Live Together in Unity, We Must Maintain an Adherence to Biblical Truth.**

I can love the unsaved, I can love Christians who are in error, but we won't walk in unity.

*Ephesians 4:11-16 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.*

*<sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds*

#### **4. To Live Together in Unity, We Must Have Common Goals.**

*Matthew 12:25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand."*

There is something about working together for a common goal that pulls people together.

- Even in the secular world, two strangers can be given a challenging job to perform and the two will pull together and, in the process, become friends.
- How much more should it be in the Spirit as we are given the job of building God's Kingdom. We will find ourselves not only as co-workers but united as brothers.

#### **5. To Live Together in Unity, We Must Spend Time Together.**

Lone Ranger mentalities do not promote unity. Praying and worshiping together, working together, and fellowshiping together produces unity. Remember (Matthew 18:20) where two more come together in Jesus' name, Jesus promises to show up! As we are in His presence, our hearts form a common bond.

*Acts 1:14 They (the eleven disciples) all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.*

#### **6. To Live Together in Unity, We Must Communicate Clearly.**

In any relationship, most disagreements and conflict are caused by a lack of communication. When we are talking and sharing our thoughts and ideas together, we can hear one another's heart and understand one another better. This allows us to work together for a common goal.

#### **7. To Live Together in Unity, We Must Walk in Love Towards One Another.**

*1 Corinthians 12, 13, & 14* teaches us that no matter what kind of gift we are trying to walk in, if we are not exercising that gift in love, we are nothing more than a clanging cymbal or sounding brass.

Paul's goal for the church was *"that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love..." Colossians 2:2*

**Colossians 3:14** encourages us to put on Love, which is the bond of perfection. Only God's love will hold a group of people together in unity.

*Colossians 3:13-14 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

#### **8. To Live Together in Unity, We Must Put Aside Envy and Selfish Ambition.**

*James 3:16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

- Being envious of others or using others for our own selfish ambition will destroy any chance for unity.
- If a person chooses to exalt himself rather than Jesus, or if their actions draw attention to themselves rather than God, those actions need to be reconsidered.

Watch out; for your fleshly desires that are not dealt with will eventually manifest themselves and disrupt the unity. This leads to fights and church splits.

*James 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?*

Watch out for the evil desires of others.

*Romans 16:17-18 I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. <sup>18</sup> For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people*

**Next Life Transformation Step – Today I will prayerfully examine my heart and thoughts to assure that I am not walking in envy or selfish ambition and repent if I am.**

#### **9. To Live Together in Unity, We Must Accept One Another.**

*Romans 15:7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

We are all different and uniquely created for God's good pleasure. Christ calls us to receive and accept each other just as He has already received us.

**There is unity and strength in diversity.**

### **The Result of Unity**

What will be the result of a church that comes together in true unity?

**2 Chronicles 5:11-14** draws a picture of unity for us. It tells of a story of Levites singing, men playing cymbals, stringed instruments, harps, and one hundred and twenty trumpets coming together to worship the Lord. This sounds like it could be a worship leader's nightmare with no hope of unity, but they came together as one!

*2 Chronicles 5:13-14 The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud, <sup>14</sup> and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.*

Unity creates an environment for God's Holy Spirit to move freely.

- The house or temple was filled with a cloud (the glory of the presence of God) because of unity.

Remember, in Acts 2 another great out pouring of the Holy Spirit occurred on the day of Pentecost. Here again, we find people who were in unity!

As we come together to worship in unity, with our eyes and hearts **focused on Jesus Christ**, we can fully expect God to pour out His glorious Holy Spirit on us as well.

If each person comes together with the common goal, that we want to meet with Jesus, we will be in unity and the glory of the Lord will fall.

### **Life App Group and Family Devotional Application**

1. As you have agreed with Jesus this week and prayed for our church to walk together in unity, how has that affected your view and personal desire for unity?
2. Why would Pastor Scott say, "To walk in unity we must maintain an adherence to Biblical Truth"? Can you walk in perfect unity with someone who is doctrinally incorrect?
3. In what ways will envy and selfish ambition destroy unity in a church?
4. At Believers, we strive to be a church of love, acceptance, and forgiveness. What happens when we truly begin to accept one another the way God created each of us to be?  
Do you agree with the statement, "There is unity and strength in diversity"?
5. What will be the result of unity in our church and unity in our worship? (2 Chronicles 5:11-14)  
Is this something that you truly desire?