

COMMUNITY: Unity Through Family

Most believers are not praying for or desiring 'the unity of the brethren'. There are a number of reasons for this and here are 3 of them:

1. Unity doesn't work
2. Unity of the faith¹ is all that is required
3. The NT church was full of division

Let me address these points:

(1) Most of us have experienced the disunity within the church. By this I don't mean the denominational divisions. I'm referring to the lack of unity between believers in the same local fellowship. Most new believers attempt to be in unity with the older members, but after some years of trying they give up because they keep getting hurt, rejected or ignored. They decide that unity is an ideal that can't be attained so they insulate themselves and just 'do the church thing' like everyone else.

(2) Many believers are of the theological mindset that unity is about a unified belief system. This is the basis behind the denominational divide. It goes like this: We're right and they're wrong; we will never agree on points of doctrine; so we let them alone and we do our own thing; the Bible proves we are right so we'll ignore the others.

(3) The bulk of the epistles are about correcting theology, as well as changing believers' behaviour and attitudes. In these there is quite a revelation of the disunity and trouble the 1st churches were having in interpersonal relationships. The thought goes like this: If the church under the oversight of the original apostles can't be united, what hope do we have; we may as well not see the minuscules amount of unity that they did have and overlook our own disunity.

THE ISSUE

The issue isn't whether or not we can attain unity or even whether it's possible. The point is that it is the Lord's desire that it does happen. This is Jesus speaking:

John 17:11 (NKJV) – *Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.*

John 17:22 (NKJV) – *And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one.*

The Kingdom principle that we must engage with is this: **As in Heaven; so on Earth.**

Therefore, that means that Kingdom citizens are to represent Heaven while they are here on Earth. So:

1. We must properly represent Father so that those who meet us do not get a misrepresentation of him.
2. We must properly represent our King so that those who meet us do not get a misrepresentation of him.
3. We must properly represent Holy Spirit so that those who meet us do not get a misrepresentation of him.
4. We are to be one (unified) just as the members of the Trinity are.
5. We are to be in community just as the members of the Trinity are.
6. We are to be in *agape* love with each other just as the members of the Trinity are.

¹ - Ephesians 4:13

Do you get the picture?

This is not legalism, it's about being genuine Kingdom representatives.

That puts a different perspective on it. It's not about being biblical; it's not about being Christian; and it's not about being more spiritual and less carnal. It's about being who we are supposed to be.

Here's how we can achieve this 'unachievable': **See each other on Community as family** and see community as perfect family.

Being family has the idyllic sense of loving relationships and we all desire this. Seeing Community as family will overcome any religious or theological baggage we have which causes us to think about unity as a churchy thing which doesn't work.

Some will object because they know that there are no perfect families – especially their. So, what am I getting at?

The basis of this method stems from my relationship with Father. I originally saw him just like my dad: angry and ready to punish me as soon as I stepped out of line. It wasn't 'til I had a revelation of Father's heart from Jack Frost's teaching in the 1990s that I was able to properly see him as he really is. The stance that keeps me rightly aligned with Father is to see him as perfect. He's a perfect Father. No matter what cock-eyed ideas I may have had of him, seeing him as a perfect Father means that I can surrender to him and let him be that to me. I've never looked back since then. I'm not perfect, but seeing him as perfect changes my attitudes to him.

If we see Community in the Kingdom as a perfect family – as it should be – we can work towards it without giving up. If it's a perfect family, it's worth being in it and worth saving it from collapse. It can be perfect, because that's what our King desires it to be. This will require us to work at it, just as a marriage requires work. However, it's more than a marriage, it's Father's family of sons who need to learn to *agape* each other in full measure.

Let me give you an example of what I'm talking about. It comes from Rich Joyner's 1990's visitation to Heaven which he recorded in his trilogy of books. This is what he observed about the glorious remnant end-time church:

“Suddenly, I was standing on a high mountain overlooking a great plain. Before me, there was an army marching on a wide front. There were 12 divisions in the vanguard that stood out sharply from the great multitude of soldiers who followed behind them. These divisions were further divided into what I assumed to be regiments, battalions, companies and squads. The divisions were distinguished by their banners, and the regiments were distinguished by their different colored uniforms.

Battalions, companies and squads were distinguished by such things as sashes or epaulets that each different group wore. All wore armor that was polished silver, shields that appeared to be pure gold, and weapons that were both silver and gold. The banners were huge, 30 to 40 feet long. As the soldiers marched, their armor and weapons flashed in the sun like lightning, and the flapping of the banners and the tread of their feet sounded like rolling thunder. I did not think that the earth had ever witnessed anything like this before.

Then I was close enough to see their faces—male and female, old and young from every race. There was a fierce resolution on their faces, yet they did not seem tense. War was in the air, but in the ranks I could sense such a profound peace that I knew that not a single one feared the battle to which they were marching. The spiritual atmosphere that I felt when close to them was as awesome as their appearance.

*I looked at their uniforms. The colors were brilliant. Every soldier also wore rank insignias and medals. The generals and other higher ranking officers marched in the ranks with the others. Although it was obvious that those with higher rank were in charge, no one seemed overly sensitive to their rank. From the highest ranking officer to the lowest, **they all seemed to be close friends**. It was an army of what seemed to be unprecedented discipline, yet it also seemed to be just one big family.*

*As I studied them, they seemed selfless—not because they lacked identity, but because they were all so sure of who they were and what they were doing. They were not consumed with themselves or seeking recognition. I could not detect ambition or pride anywhere in the ranks. It was stunning to see so many who were so unique, yet **in such harmony and marching in perfect step**. I was sure that there had never been an army on earth like this. Then I was behind the front divisions looking at a much larger group that was...*”²

John Alley also had a revelation about apostolic unity. This is some of what he received:

*“God is looking throughout the earth for a people upon whom He can pour out His Spirit in a particular way and for a particular purpose. **He seeks a people who will allow Him to bring them into unity**, enabling Him to give them a gift, the spirit of ‘understanding’. Then with one heart and one mind they will arise to do the work of God.*

The size of the group is not important. It could be 200 people, or 50, but with deep unity and profound understanding given by the Spirit, there is no limit to what God can do through them. I sensed that God is looking now for such a people, and in the coming days there may be many such groups. But the key is understanding, supernaturally given as an anointing by the Lord to every person in the community, causing them to be of one heart and mind.

At first this idea seemed too idealistic, even though it was strongly impressed upon me. To my own mind it appeared highly improbable that groups of believers could have a unity so deeply pervasive that they would be of one heart and one mind. In the church all we have ever known is independence...

*[T]here are many congregations where lives are not moved greatly by the preaching of the word of God. There is a reason for this. Because the church lacks unity, the spirit of understanding is thinly distributed. It is upon the unity of the believers that the command to bless is given, and that commanded blessing is “life”.*³

*I saw that God is looking for a people upon whom He can place the spirit of understanding, corporately and individually. Then each will have the same passion for the will of God to be done as the preacher, and together, with one heart and one mind, they will arise and do the will of God.”*⁴

Remember: The remnant end-time glorious Bride is without spot or wrinkle.⁵ That means that they will be in perfect unity because if they are not, they have a blemish and can't be the perfect Bride.

Do you want to be part of the glorious end-time Bride or have you given up & are looking for a quick getaway?

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2 – Rick Joyner (1996) “The Final Quest” MorningStar Publications [Quote from the start of chapter 10]

3 – Psalm 133:3

4 – John Kingsley Alley (2002) “The Apostolic Revelation: The Reformation of the Church” Peace Publishing p:231-233 [free PDF e-book]

5 – Ephesians 5:27