

We Are Better Together! part 1
6 Things That Help Create Unity in Church Life
6.13.2018

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (AMPC)

BUT UNDERSTAND this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]. 2 For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane. 3 [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good. 4 [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God. 5 For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them].

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NLT)

You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

All living things are doing two things:

Growing

Changing

New people will be coming. This is preparation.

Preventative maintenance on my vehicles.

Tonight I want to start a new series talk about some things we should be aware of as a church body, some things we should do and things we must refuse to allow in our lives.

1. Remember that God is body conscious!

He wants us to be body conscious too!

Every cell of the human body contains the DNA capable of reproducing the whole body. Each cell of your body recognizes your DNA, and will fervently resist invaders that don't carry the same DNA.

The DNA of Victory Church is one of Faith, Love, Unity, Care, Helpfulness, Faithfulness, Considerateness.

Division, strife, deceit, gossip, and self-centeredness is not of God, and is NOT of Victory Church.

Serve one- worship one to share our DNA...

Attend services!

1 Corinthians 12:12-27- The Message

You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ. (13) By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive.

(14) I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. (15) If Foot said, "I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body," would that make it so? (16) If Ear said, "I'm not beautiful like Eye, limpid and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head," would you want to remove it from the body? (17) If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? (18) As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it.

(19) But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of. An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster. (20) What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. (21) Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or,

Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"? (22) As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way—the "lower" the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary. You can live without an eye, for instance, but not without a stomach. (23) When it's a part of your own body you are concerned with, it makes no difference whether the part is visible or clothed, higher or lower. You give it dignity and honor just as it is, without comparisons. (24) If anything, you have more concern for the lower parts than the higher. If you had to choose, wouldn't you prefer good digestion to full-bodied hair? (25) The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, (26) the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. (27) You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.

2. We together create an atmosphere...

Ephesians 2:19-22 - NLT

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

21 We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

22 Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

verse 21 - Temple

Gk- Naos

inner sanctuary, Holy of Holies

verse 21 - Conybeare

To make a house wherein God may dwell by the presence of His Spirit.

3. Don't let yourself be used like a cancer cell.

Matthew 12:25

Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, "Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart.

Satan looks for opportunities to bring division into a church family...

What is cancer in a human body but individual cells changed by an invader to begin to fight one another?

Don't let him use you!

Anytime you voice dissent to anyone about what you don't like, what you disagree with, or about a person you don't like, you are being used like the cancer cells of a body...you're being used by the enemy to bring ill-health!

4. The way we treat each other is the way we treat Jesus Himself!

Acts 9:1-5 (NLT)

Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. (2) He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains. (3) As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. (4) He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" (5) "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!"

Matthew 25:37-40 (NLT)

Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

5. Think, act, and speak unity.

The ability for the Holy Spirit to manifest in and through a church is directly related to unity.

Kenneth Hagin example.

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.

Acts 2:1

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

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,

Acts 4:24

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,

Acts 4:32

Now the multitude of those who believed **were of one heart and one soul**; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

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.

Genesis 11:1-8

At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words.

2 As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia and settled there.

3 They began saying to each other, "Let's make bricks and harden them with fire." (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.)

4 Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world."

5 But the Lord came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building.

6 "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them!

7 Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

8 In that way, the Lord scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city.

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.

Psalms 133 - NLT

How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!

2 For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron's head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe.

3 Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing, even life everlasting.

Philippians 2:1-4

1 Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?

2 Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

6. Allow love to help you overlook the flaws and misdeeds of others.

Don't allow yourself to be offended and get in the flesh with others.

Ephesians 4:2-3 (NLT)

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. 3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Colossians 3:12-13 (NLT)

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Love those in our body!

Because of the selfish age, our love will be challenged:

Matthew 24:12 (Wuest NT)

...and because of the prevalent disregard of God's law the love of the great majority will grow cold;

Matthew 24:12 (NIV)

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

Matthew 24:12 (MSG)

For many others, the overwhelming spread of evil will do them in—nothing left of their love but a mound of ashes.

Matthew 24:12 (CEV) Evil will spread and cause many people to stop loving others.

1 Peter 4:8 - AMP

8 Above all things have intense and unending love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offenses of others].

Matthew 5:43-48 (MSG)

You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' 44 I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, 45 for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. 46 If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. 47 If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

48 "In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

Romans 13:8-10 (NLT)

Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. 9 For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.

Ephesians 4:29-32 (MSG)

Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift. 30 Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted.

31 Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. 32 Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.

Colossians 3:12-14 (AMPC)

Clothe yourselves therefore, as God's own chosen ones (His own picked representatives), [who are] purified and holy and well-beloved [by God Himself, by putting on behavior marked by]

tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, [and] patience [which is tireless and long-suffering, and has the power to endure whatever comes, with good temper].

13 Be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference (a grievance or complaint) against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has [freely] forgiven you, so must you also [forgive].

14 And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness [which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony].

John 13:34-35 (NLT)

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Galatians 6:1 - NLT

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.