



Sunday, April 22, 2018

A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — “*Be still, and know that I am God*” (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — “*to obey is better than sacrifice*” (1 Samuel 15:22)

I. Introduction—Our Commitment to Biblical Unity

DISUNITY is not the *PRODUCT* of *CONFLICTS* but the *LACK* of *DILIGENCE* in **RESOLVING** those *CONFLICTS* **BIBLICALLY**

“Our Walk in Harmony” (Part 3)

II. The **MARKS** of Biblical Unity

A. Our **VILLAIN** of Unity—**LUST** (James 4:1-10)

The *villain* of Biblical unity is **caused** by lust—the hedonistic desire for worldly pleasure—the desire for one’s own way. The cure for *lustful disunity* is rooted in *loving humility*.

B. Our **VISION** of Unity—**LOWLINESS** (Ephesians 4:1-6)

We noted that we need to maintain a Biblical **VISION** of unity with regards to having a right view of *ourselves*, our *God*, *others*, and the *Church*.

C. Our VISIBLE Unity—_____ (1 Peter 3:8-12)

This *visible unity* is a blessing to others and brings _____ to God.

1. Be a blessing with your _____ (v. 8-9)

a. We are to be compatible—“*be of one mind*”

Being the greatest blessing begins with the way we _____.

Romans 15:5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to **Christ Jesus**:

Cf. Philippians 1:27, 2:2-3 & 5

Romans 12:16 *Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.*

b. We are to be _____—“*having compassion*”

c. We are to be _____—“*love as brethren*”

d. We are to be _____—“*be pitiful*”

e. We are to be _____—“*be courteous*”

Romans 12:10 *Be kindly affectioned [natural family love] one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

f. We are to be _____—“*render blessing*”

2. Be a blessing in your _____ (v. 10)

Our prayer should be... “Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips” (Psalm 141:3).

3. Be a blessing because of your _____ (v. 11-12)

a. Having a righteous _____ (v. 11)

A healthy fear of evil will be reflected in our lives obedience and holiness as we learn to keep sin at a distance.

“...let him seek peace, and ensue [pursue] it.” – What we run from but also what we run to defines our character.

Philippians 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

b. Having righteous _____ (v. 12)

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Proverbs 15:8 The sacrifice [worship] of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Point of examination: Our walk in harmony is vital to our effectiveness in pursuing our mission, both individually and corporately. Consider your own visible unity before the Lord.

Q: As unbelievers watch your life, which do they see: compassion, tolerance, love of life, hatred for evil, and desire for God-centered living or harshness, intolerance, grumpiness, love for evil, and a commitment to self-centered living? Remember, you are being watched by others and God!

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF SIN**)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew your mind**)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (**Put ON CHRIST**)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: *Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!*