



Sunday, April 15, 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

Having **Biblical unity** speaks of having the *same mindset* in pursuing the *same mission*.

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

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 consequences are *frustrated cravings*, *faulty communication*, and *failed communion*. The cure for this hedonistic lust is humility. The cure for **lustful disunity** is rooted in **loving humility**.

Q: Are there **ruling lusts** that are hindering you from contributing to the Biblical unity of the church family?

“Our Walk in Harmony” (Part 2)

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

In order for us to diligently pursue harmony in our relationships it is necessary that we have a Biblical VISION of unity.

1. Our View of _____ —“lowliness”

This “*lowliness*” is a true estimation of one’s _____.

Philippians 2:3 *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory [empty, self-praise] but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

As pride promotes *disunity*, humility promotes *unity*.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God** hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

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.*

Q: How do you feel about your own importance? Do you humbly consider yourself?

2. Our View of _____ —“meekness”

“*Meekness*” is often seen as weakness when it is better seen as power under _____.

Donald Grey Barnhouse – “Meekness is a *vertical virtue*, measuring self against God at every moment. It has nothing to do with the horizontal virtue that measure a man by other men.”

3. Our View of _____ —“longsuffering, forbearing”

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

1 Corinthians 13:4 Charity [*self-sacrificing love*] suffereth long, and is kind;...

Colossians 3:14 And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness [*completeness / spiritual maturity*].

4. Our View of the _____ —“*There is one body*” (v. 4-6)

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as **Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee,** that they also may be one in **Us:** that the world may believe that **Thou** hast sent **Me.**

Colossians 3:12-15

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

Question: What is your **vision**? How do you view yourself, your God, others and the Church?

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

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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!*