

Australind Vineyard Christian Fellowship

from the Pastor's heart  The Sword of the Spirit the Word of God



The Spirit of Unity

Dear Church,

It is my experience in ministry that much is said about unity in the Church with no clear understanding of what it actually involves. From what I have experienced in 17 years of full time ministry (travelling to 16 countries and preaching in hundreds of places) I can only say that I am yet to see unity as preached and talked about from pulpits and in both Christian and secular discussions around the world.

This has led me to try and understand what God is saying to us about unity and how to achieve it. It seems when two disagree we conclude there is no unity. Or, when one part of understanding is not common to all we say we have disunity. The Bible teaches; "except two agree they cannot walk together". Yet I see so many marriages and churches walking together in spite of disagreement and conflict. This too is confusing to many when we try to understand Biblical unity.

In my search for understanding I came across the concept of the Spirit of unity. The Bible teaches us from 1John that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit agree in one in heaven and the blood, water (word) and Spirit agree on earth as one. There is absolutely no evidence anywhere in the Bible where this is not true. In their makeup of God as three in one and one in three we see perfect unity.

From what I can glean out of the Bible, in order for unity of the God kind to exist between us and God and between His people we need the teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit. God refers to this unity of the Spirit as the anointing oil that flowed down Aaron's (the high priest's) beard and his garment. In looking into what this anointing oil was on Aaron, I discovered that this oil was 'The Most Holy Oil' that God had commanded Moses to make and which had to be put on Aaron before he entered God's presence. This oil was made out of 5 ingredients which in the New Testament concept speak of grace. It also speaks of the five fold ministry given to the Church for the perfecting of the saints amongst other things. The function of this oil was sanctification allowing holy ministry to God by imperfect vessels. In the OT no one could perform this task of holy ministry to God but the High Priest.

When we draw a parallel to Jesus as our High Priest we see Him going into the presence of God anointed of the Holy Spirit covered with His blood walking into perfect unity with God. This brought union of God's Spirit with man's spirit. This is what I believe God is offering us in unity with Him. When we draw down on this anointing oil it takes us to the second most important union in our lives which is greater than marriage or friendship which is the union between ourselves. It is here that we discover that this oil or Spirit anointing is required for brethren to dwell in unity.

When we are all in the Spirit we can attain unity of the Spirit and not unity for the sake of unity. I believe that God is saying we must remain in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit in action, speech, deed and thought in order for the Spirit of unity to unite us together. Then, God commands the blessings we need. I urge you to consider for yourselves where you are and if you are walking in Spirit with one another in the Church, home or out there in the general public. Your blessings depend on it. Walking in the Spirit within our understanding at all times is a safeguard for us.

Recently I was confronted with my own weaknesses in this area. I wondered about it and discovered that my conflicts were arising out of disunity with the teachings of the Spirit of God and that is why I was unable to resolve my conflicts. When I realised this, I endeavoured to humble myself. This produced in me the results that I needed and was expecting and which went far beyond my wildest dreams. I was suddenly caught up into the very love of God and realisation of the truth which set me free. It did not matter anymore if others in conflict with me agreed with me anymore. I was in agreement with them in love by the Spirit of God not in subjugation (suppression) to some human mindset of disharmony. In some cases as they continued to rant and rave and be angry I was set free to love and be disciplined in my behaviour toward them and thereby walk righteously with God who was in unity with me because of that.

I concluded that true unity was not in verbal or written agreement and deliberations of the heart as these subjugations could be easily broken by a fragile mind by the workings of weak flesh. **The truth about unity in my humble opinion is, that unity can only be achieved when all of us come into perfect agreement by the Spirit of God. This is what Paul teaches in Eph 4.11:16.**

No one in the body of Christ called the Church is exempt from unity. There are no stand apart persons who can claim to be in the body. They have to become attached as full functioning members supplying another's needs.

If the hand says it does not need the foot then it is rejecting itself and bringing about disunity in the body.

If one hurts in the body all should hurt; if one is joyous in the body all should be joyous. There is no disunity in the body of Christ only love and unity of the Spirit. We will all tend to disagree with one another at some stage but if we walk in the unity of the Spirit rather than our spirit we will achieve great things together.

Do not be fooled about satan's intentions to steal, kill, destroy and divide. By dividing he can isolate and knock off sheep one by one or in small groups. He is always going about like a roaring lion seeking to devour. If he can bring disagreement in families, friends and among people in the Church he will. Whole denominations and Churches do not exist anymore for this very reason. The rate of divorce in the Church and the world is well above 60% because of division. Division in doctrine and theology is rife and many false prophets have been released into the Church worldwide and into the world. *Watch and pray.*

I do not write this to scare you but to encourage you to walk in the Spirit at all times. It is our safeguard against all things.

In Christ's love
Pastor Noble