



Power of one - Unity in the body of Christ - Devotions

1. Understanding unity

Unity is not a gift from God. It is not dashed to us like natural gifts that we receive at birth. Unity is achievable. It is not an impossible thing to achieve in our city. Any Church, leadership, group of people that are united, they worked hard to achieve it. Once you achieve it, Ephesians 4.3 tells us what to do to maintain it says, Endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Unity is brought by the spirit when we work at it. Pray that the spirit of God would bring unity in the city as leaders are working towards it. Pray also that God will cause all believers to seek the things of God and the kingdom more than the individual or local assembly.

2 Hindrances to unity

There are two hindrances to unity.

INDIVIDUALISM

It becomes a hindrance when we become more in focus to my personal and church needs and ministry at the expense of the whole body of Christ.

- The interest, the preferences and the comfort of the individual take precedence over the interest and the wellbeing of the group.
- * 2 Timothy 4.10.
- * Demas has left Paul because he loved the world.
- * Acts 15.38. John mark left them and the ministry for a while to attend to himself and his interests. Later he decided to join them. He was done with his personal interests now he can attend to the group's interests.
- * In John 6.60. Many of his disciples left him and the group due to their own personal gratification of food.

2. PROSPERITY

Believe it or not, Prosperity is one of the hindrances to unity in the church today. Judges 18. 2 Chronicles 26, lets us know that when the people of Laish and King Uzziah became prosperous, they cut themselves off from other people. One of the things that takes people away from church is prosperity. They get busy with the blessing and forget the one who blessed. The truth is, some people were devoted to Christ and family before they had success. Pray that, prosperous church members and churches in our city will not out grow their assembly in a proud way and think I don't need them and other churches. Pray that prosperous churches will be used by God to foster unity in the body of Christ.

3rd day. We must always see The Church in three dimension

* Local Assembly. This is the type of church you call it your home church. Acts 2.46. God added to Jerusalem church by those who were being saved. This is the type of church God plants you in it so that you will receive spiritual oversight and covering. That is where to pay your tithe. Use your gifts and grown in fellowship with fellow members. A Local church always does things for their own and focuses inwardly to pursue its vision.

* Regional Church. This second type of church is called the body of Christ in a particular province or region. This type of church consist of different churches in that region like Tshwane or Gauteng churches. As great as my church and yours are, they are part of the regional church. All the church in our geographical area, have a responsibility together to partner and push back forces of darkness that our individual churches cannot do.

* Thirdly, It is a Universal church. This type of church is made out of all people in the world who are called from darkness to light and confess Jesus as risen from the dead. It is the body of believers worldwide. 1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. Pray that God would help us to function simultaneously in these three type of churches. Pray that our eyes will be enlightened in regard to our involvement in these three churches.

4th day. 3 Examples of what others did to achieved unity in the church

1. Prayer.

Prayer is the unifying practice amongst believers. We may differ in all other church issues but we all agree in the power of prayer. The disciples of Jesus said to him, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples to prayer. In Acts 12. The church unified in prayer when Herod was persecuting the church. That kind of prayer called upon by the whole body of Christ in the area to unify and collaborate in order to stop Herod. It was that kind of united prayer that stopped Herod. He was eaten by worms while he was alive.

2. Assisting the needy and the poor.

- 2 Corinthians 8,9. Talks about the collection of resources. The need was so big that all churches in the area had to unite to address the problem. Pray that God will lead our pastors to discern the kind of projects that we need to do together as we bring resources together for maximum impact in our city

3. During the time of war, Israel that was so divided came together to fight a common enemy.

Political climate of some countries forced the divided church to unite and brought a turnaround in that nation. Zambia is one country that did that. That kind of prayer called upon the whole body of Christ in the area to unify and collaborate in order to stop to address the national. Please pray for courage to our leaders to take their rightful place in standing for God, for the sick and the wellbeing of our nation. Pray that God will deliver servants of God from identifying with any political party at the expense of keeping quiet and not speaking the heart of God to the nation.

5. Two things to do foster and to promote unity

1. To lay aside and suspend activities of our own assemblies to engage in something of a regional or national interest. God's people in history put aside their own little kingdoms and agendas when there was national disaster, calamity, draught and pestilence to unite in combating the issues affecting the people.

2. Joint ventures in campaigns to win souls and reaching out to the communities together. We must foster unity to gather a massive harvest together. Peter caught net breaking super abundance fish. In order to save the harvest, he had to call others to unite in harvesting the fish.

6. THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY

- God has given us different vision, calling direction and talents for different purposes to serve him. And when we UNITE and put them together, we can accomplish more than what we can individually.
- No matter how good and how anointed you are individually, it is nothing compared with a good team of the church that is UNITED in purpose and sharing their strength and resources. The bible says two is better than. Another scripture says, one shall chase 1000 and two shall chase 10.000.

7th day. ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE.

There is a place for individualism in the bible.

- Jesus died for individuals.
- God loves us individually.
- God still uses the individual.
- Each individual church is making a difference in its locality.
- * How many people delivered the Israelites from Egypt?
- * How many people who saved the spies in Jericho who were sent by Joshua?
- * How many people ended the war between Israel and Goliath people?

Never underestimate the power of one! And that one just may be you.

There are things that we can do as individuals and local churches. But there are certain things that the best of me and my church cannot do. I need to partner with the body of Christ to win some territory.