

VIDEO
BIBLE DECLARATION

UNITY

A little 5-year-old boy one day was playing with his 2-year-old brother when the 2 year old reached up and yanked his older brother's hair.

He screamed in pain, and his mother came rushing in. He cried and said that his younger brother had pulled his hair. His mom said, "Well, he's only 2 years old and he doesn't know what its like to have his hair pulled."

The mom left and seconds later she heard a scream from the bedroom, but this time it was the 2 year old screaming in pain. She rushed in and asked what had happened, to which the 5 year old explained, "You said he didn't know what it felt like, well now he does."

OFTEN WE PULL ON OTHERS AND SAY YOU NEED TO DO THIS FOR THE CHURCH. GOD IS SAYING TO ALL US ITS TIME FOR US TO DO FOR THE CHURCH IF YOU DIDN'T RELIZE IT GOD HAS CHOSEN YOU

EPHESIANS 4:1-5 NIV

1As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

The Holy Spirit, gently called you to salvation and to a life long walk with the One who created you.

If you never realized that you were called before, now you do! And I want you to realize how special you are and how much God loves you today!

I also want you to know and realize, we haven't been called for a solo career, to be glory stealers, we have been called to work together (as community) in the Lords army of believers, for the Glory of God!

We have an incredible opportunity before us as a body of believers.

This morning I want to talk about the power of unity and the opportunity that stands wide open before us.

ECCLESIASTES 4:12 NLT

A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

ILLUS

Back in the 1600's William Lantan was the captain of a ship headed for Barbados.

A thousand miles off the coast his vessel sprang a leak, and he had the crew take refuge in their longboat.

They had a plentiful supply of bread, but little water. After 18 days of drifting they were down to a tablespoon per man a day. They knew their days were numbered.

Meanwhile, another ship captain by the name of Samuel Scarlet was having his problems.

They were almost out of food, but had plenty of water. They spotted the longboat and rescued them

Each party discovered the other had what they lacked. One had bread for all, and the other had water for all. Both crews would have perished without the other, but together they supplied each other's need for survival.

NONE OF US CAN BEGIN TO BE ALL THAT GOD WANTS US TO BE UNTIL WE GRASP THE VALUE OF EACH OTHER

We are called to reach others and sometime the others are different that's why we are all different, so we can make a difference.

You cannot paint with a hammer, and you cannot pound nails with a paint brush.

Galatians 3:26-29 NIV

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

JESUS IS THE GREAT EQUALIZER.

Power structures are leveled in His church.

Jew/Gentile – Religious differences

Slave/Free – Economic differences

Male/Female – Gender differences

We're all brothers and sisters.

It seems to me that we live in an age that focuses on divisions, differences,
 we cant get along because you are and I am
 you can't be apart of this group because you are
 and that has crept into the church

we don't feel we can be a friend or have unity with someone
 because they might not like us because we are different.
 Because society says you wont get along, you can't get along
 and then we don't try.

satan is full of division -- elaborate

COMMUNICATION IS KEY TO UNITY

The story is told of two men riding a tandem bicycle up a steep hill. After much effort, they finally made it to the top of the hill. The front rider said, "That was a tough ride." To which the second rider replied, "Sure was, and if I hadn't kept the brake on we might have slipped backwards."

closing

what about what makes us the same ,

we are all sinners saved by grace
 we all fall short of the glory of God
 we have a purpose for God's kingdom and it includes each other
 we can't do this alone

JESUS IS THE GREAT EQUALIZER

he died for all of us
he loves all of us
he created all us
he has purpose for all of us
to be unified for his kingdom

John 13:34-35

34“ A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

go to someone give them a hug, tell them you love them
pray with them for unity together.