

## Summary:

This sermon explores the secret superpower of the church: unity. Using the 1980 'Miracle on Ice' hockey victory as an illustration, the pastor demonstrates how unity can make the impossible possible. The message examines six biblical truths about unity: it is powerful (as seen in Genesis 11 with the Tower of Babel), it is not uniformity but diversity coming together in spiritual oneness, it brings God's blessing and anointing, it must be actively maintained through humility and forgiveness, it serves as a witness to the world of God's love, and it acts as a multiplier for the church's effectiveness. The pastor emphasizes that unity is supernatural and can only be created by God, though it can be cultivated and protected by believers. The sermon challenges listeners to examine their own hearts for areas where they may be hindering unity, whether through pride, unforgiveness, or lack of humility. Using the powerful example of Corrie ten Boom forgiving a Nazi concentration camp guard, the message illustrates that maintaining unity often requires difficult choices to forgive as Christ has forgiven us. The pastor concludes by painting a vision of what the church could accomplish with perfect unity and challenges the congregation to take practical steps toward unity in their relationships and community.

## Intro Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with grateful hearts, acknowledging that You are the source of all true unity. As we gather to discuss Your Word and what You want to teach us about unity in the body of Christ, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You have for us today. Help us to be humble and teachable, ready to examine our own lives and relationships. Lord, we pray that You would speak to each person here in the way they need to hear from You. Remove any barriers of pride, hurt, or unforgiveness that might prevent us from fully embracing the unity You desire for Your church. Guide our discussion and help us to encourage one another as we seek to live out Your truth together. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Ice Breaker:

What's one team sport or group activity you've been part of where you felt like the team really worked well together? What made that experience special?

## Key Verses:

Genesis 11:4-8

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Psalms 133:1-3

Ephesians 4:2-6

John 17:20-23

Acts 2:42-47

#### Questions:

- The pastor said that if we truly understood the power of unity and consequences of disunity, we would act differently. What are some practical ways disunity shows up in churches, families, or communities that we might overlook?
- How is biblical unity different from uniformity? Can you think of examples where people confuse the two?
- The sermon mentioned that 'God blesses and anoints that which is unified.' Have you ever experienced or witnessed God's blessing on a unified group? What was that like?
- Paul instructs us to be 'completely humble and completely gentle.' Which of these qualities (humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with others in love) do you find most challenging, and why?
- The story of Corrie ten Boom forgiving the Nazi guard was powerful. What makes forgiveness so difficult, and how can we follow her example of choosing to forgive even when our feelings resist?
- Jesus prayed that our unity would be a witness to the world. How does the unity (or disunity) of Christians today affect how non-believers view the church?
- The pastor mentioned that sometimes separation is necessary to preserve unity when dealing with false doctrine or habitual sin. How do we discern when to separate versus when to work through differences?

#### Life Application:

This week, identify one relationship where there may be tension, unforgiveness, or lack of unity. Take a concrete step toward reconciliation - whether that's having a difficult conversation, offering forgiveness, or simply choosing to respond with humility and gentleness. Remember that choices lead and feelings follow, so make the choice to pursue unity even if your emotions resist.

#### Key Takeaways:

Unity is a supernatural power that makes the impossible possible, as demonstrated in the Tower of Babel account where God recognized that unified people could accomplish anything they set their minds to. True biblical unity is not uniformity but diversity coming together in spiritual oneness through the Holy Spirit, transcending differences in background, culture, and personality. Unity must be actively maintained through complete humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness - it requires intentional effort and cannot be taken for granted. Our unity serves as a powerful witness to the world, demonstrating God's love and drawing people to Christ when we live in harmony with

one another

Unity acts as a multiplier for the church's effectiveness, bringing God's blessing, anointing, and favor that results in growth and impact in the community

Ending Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time of fellowship and discussion about the unity You desire for Your church. We confess that we don't always live up to Your standard of complete humility, gentleness, and love toward one another. Help us to be people who actively pursue and protect unity in our relationships, our families, and our church. Give us the courage to forgive as You have forgiven us, even when it's difficult. Help us to remember that our unity is a witness to the world of Your love and power. As we go from this place, may we be agents of unity and reconciliation wherever You place us. Make us one as You and the Father are one, so that the world may know that You have sent Jesus and that You love us. We commit to taking practical steps this week to build unity in our relationships. In Jesus' powerful name we pray, Amen.