

CULTIVATING UNITY

Jd 1.19 - These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

SOUL: AUTOMATICALLY DIVISIVE
[magnets repel]

SPIRIT: AUTOMATICALLY UNITED
[magnets attract]

INTERNET:
MAGNETIC FORCE
SOCIAL AMPLIFIER

ACCELERATED FLOW OF
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
**1950'S PHONES

SPED-UP COMMUNICATION =
PEACE AND LOVE?

ACCELERATED & AMPLIFIED
DIVISION [SOUL/FLESH 'FLOW']

ACCELERATED & AMPLIFIED
UNITY [SPIRIT 'FLOW']

EARTH
BECOMES MORE & MORE
DIVIDED

AS SOULISH
MAGNETIC FORCE-FIELDS
ARE AMPLIFIED
AND THEY
REPEL EACH OTHER:

MIND/WILL/EMOTIONS
HURTING AND HATING
DAMAGED FEELINGS
CREATING OFFENSES

LEAVING EARTH
SOUL-STRONG...

BUT SPIRITUALLY...
AT THE CORE...

DIVIDED!

BUT...
GOD'S 'SPIRITUAL' CHURCH...

WITH ITS MAGNETS

ATTRACTING EACH OTHER...

BECOMES GOD'S
'UNITY CONTAINERS'

GOD'S
LOVE, JOY & PEACE
CENTERS

IN A
HATE-ENSLAVED
WORLD!

WHAT ABOUT
THE WORLD, THEN?

HOW DOES THE UNITY
CONTAINED IN THE
SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH
GET OUT INTO
THE SOUL-FILLED WORLD?

BEFORE WE FINISH TODAY...
WE'LL GET THERE!

NOW...
WE'LL START WITH
THE UNITY 'CONTAINER'!

THE CHURCH:
EKKLESSI'A
EK: Out. KALE'O: To call.

A gathering of citizens
called out from their homes
into some public place...

An assembly of the people
convened at the public place of council
for the purpose of deliberating.

A word from Greek politics.

An assembly or company
of Christians gathering
for worship.

1 Cor 11.18 - For first of all, when you COME TOGETHER AS A CHURCH, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.

1 Cor 14.23 - Therefore if THE WHOLE CHURCH COMES TOGETHER *IN ONE PLACE*, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those who are* uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

10%-20%-UNIVERSAL

Col 1.18 - And He is the head of the body, THE CHURCH,

Eph 5.29 - This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and THE CHURCH.

80%-90% LOCAL

Rev 1.4 - John, to the SEVEN CHURCHES which are in Asia...

[... to the churches of Galatia...]

Acts 14.23 - So when they had appointed elders IN EVERY CHURCH, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

[...the church that is in their house...]

'CHURCH'

[1]

All believers

throughout time and space

[2]

Out in the mountains:

"Church isn't a building.

It's the people!"

"I'm having church!"

[3]

Run into another Christian

And chat on the corner

for 5 minutes:

"We just had church!"

[4]

Weekly gathering of believers.

Have a leader.

Bible Study.

Prayer group.

Home Group or fellowship.

Some organization and structure.

But not mature or developed.

BUT...

"BUILD ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN!"

There's a blueprint. A plan!

A design. Architecture.

Godly wisdom as to

HOW THE CHURCH IS BUILT.

AND... WHAT IT IS!!

[5]

Believers gathering weekly

committed to each other in love...

Growing in Scripture ...by the Spirit

Forming and developing

[over time]

A maturing body...

Eventually including

5-fold ministries

Elders/ Deacons/Saints

All the gifts of the Spirit...

POWER AT WORK...

AND IN DIVINE ORDER!

Declaring and Manifesting
CHRIST
Throughout the region

WITH
EVER-INCREASING
IMPACT!

"I CAN'T FIND A GOOD CHURCH!"

Tune into the Holy Spirit!
Your flesh may have led you
Into a financially abundant
But spiritually barren...
Wilderness!

GOD WANTS EVERYBODY
TO BE A PART
OF A GOOD, HEALTHY CHURCH!

HE WILL LEAD US THERE
IF...
WE WANT TO FOLLOW!

PAUL:
FROM a team...
WITH a team...
To START teams!

THE GOD OF THE TRINITY
HAS ALWAYS BEEN
WILL ALWAYS BE...
A TEAM PLAYER!

AND HE WANTS US ALL
ON HIS TEAM
AND THAT TEAM'S
CALLED...
THE CHURCH!

Col 1.24 - I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of HIS BODY, *WHICH IS THE CHURCH...*

MEMBERS: ME'LOS:
A limb of the body...
a bodily organ... or a body part.
Eyes – Ears – Nose –
Feet – Hands – Head

1 Cor 12.27 - Now YOU are *THE BODY OF CHRIST*, and MEMBERS individually.

WHAT IS... *UNITY?*

1. With the church universal...?
2. *Mountainside...*?

3. On the street corner...?
4. *With a huddle of believers...?*
5. With... *THE BODY OF CHRIST...!!!!*

What could that possibly mean??

OUR PHYSICAL HEARTS:

They have a PLACE

[by design... according to God's pattern]

They have their own STRUCTURE

[by design... according to God's pattern]

They have their own PURPOSE

[by design... according to God's pattern]

They have their own CONTEXT

[INTER-RELATIONSHIP

WITH OTHER PARTS]

[by design... according to God's pattern]

They are 'THERE'!

There's a CONSISTENCY...

A GOD-BUILT

INTER-DEPENDENCY

[by design... according to God's pattern]

Col 2.19 – and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

CHRIST

WILL BUILD HIS CHURCH!

Every part deciding for itself...

Is spasmodic

And out of control!

Zeal driven churches...

Are epileptic bodies...

In a constant state of
seizure!

FREED?

GO CATATONIC!

[I'm not sure that's the

Holy Spirit

Leading you!!]

BUT A TRULY

SPIRIT-LED CHURCH?

It's coordinated.

Harmonized.

Powerful... but orderly!

CHRIST'S BODY

Is not a product
Of human ingenuity
Or intelligence!
Not artificial.
Not enslaving and empty.

BUT FREE
AND FULFILLING!

We have our own place!!
Our own structure!!
Our own purpose!!
Our own context!!
Our own rhythm!!

A finger
separated from the body...
Is miserable...
It can't survive!

WE'RE... ALL...
BODY PARTS!

THE BIBLE CLEARLY
AND REPEATEDLY
SAYS WE ARE!!

SO I'M CONVINCED
THAT GOD HAS
A BLESSED...
FITTING...
AND FRUITFUL PLACE...
FOR ALL OF US...
IN THE BODY OF CHRIST...
WHICH IS...
HIS CHURCH!!

1 Cor 12.7 - ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all...*

SUMPHE'RO:
To carry together.
Walk away from a church service...
everybody's arms are loaded!
Everybody wins!

1 Cor 14.3-6 - ³ But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. ⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵ I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that THE CHURCH may receive edification. ⁶ But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching?

EDIFICATION:
Building up.

*EXHORTATION:
Encouragement.*

*COMFORT:
Close speaking
with great tenderness.
Calming. Consoling.*

*PROFIT:
Benefit.
Be useful and advantageous.
Help or make better.*

1 Cor 14.12 - ¹² Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual *gifts*, *let it be* for the edification of THE CHURCH *that* you seek to excel.

1 Cor 14.26 - ²⁶ How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

1 Cor 13.1-3 - Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, it profits me nothing.

****A GIFT OR BRIBE...**
Distorts... good judgment.

'Money': Best seat?

*How about 'faith
that moves mountains?'*

*How about 'knows
all things?'*

THE QUESTION IS:
Do they
LOVE
The Body of Christ...
Or their ministry...
MORE?

Is the church here
To serve their ministry?

Or is their ministry here...
To serve the church!

The difference is
LIFE AND DEATH!!

1 Cor 12.20-21 - ²⁰ But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. ²¹ And *THE EYE CANNOT SAY TO THE HAND, "I HAVE NO NEED OF YOU"; NOR AGAIN THE HEAD TO THE FEET, "I HAVE NO NEED OF YOU."*

THE HEALER CAN'T

SAY TO THE PROPHET:
"We should all be healing the sick!
All you do is Prophecy!
Look at what I do!
Speed up, buddy...
Cause you're missing out on
What God's doing
in this church!

*GET THE
HEALING REVELATION
LIKE I DO!!"*

AND THE TEACHER CAN'T SAY
TO THE EVANGELIST...
"Look, Evangelist!
We're all supposed to be teaching!
Catch up with my revelation ...
Or you're missing God's will
for this church!

UNITY...
WILL NOT COME
IF WE CENTER
OUR CONNECTEDNESS...
AROUND ANY PARTICULAR
GIFT...OR MINISTRY...

ANY MORE THAN THE UNITED STATES
WILL BE BROUGHT TOGETHER
BY FOCUSING ON OUR DIFFERENCES.

GIFT AND MINISTRY
CENTEREDNESS...
DIVIDES THE CHURCH!

"I AM OF HEALING!"
"I AM OF EVANGELISM!"
"I AM OF PROPHECY!"

NO!!

Unity doesn't come...
When we focus on
our ministries...

BUT WHEN WE ALL
WITH DIFFERENT
KINDS OF MINISTRIES
FOCUS ON CHRIST??

WE... HAVE...

UNITY!!!

1 Cor 11.17-18 - ¹⁷ Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since YOU COME TOGETHER NOT FOR THE BETTER *BUT FOR THE WORSE*. ¹⁸ For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.

***1977 - 27 YEARS OLD
First Pastor's gatherings.*

*"You're not going to grow.
We're the anchor of this community!"*

*"If you support this event...
Get behind this project we have going...
You're for unity!
But if you don't...
You're only in it for yourself!"*

*YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT?
I WANT TO LOVE PEOPLE...
[INCLUDING MINISTERS]
JUST AS THEY ARE...
TO LOVE ME BACK...
JUST AS I AM...*

NO... STRINGS... ATTACHED!!!

*AT WOODLAND PARK...
IN CONTRAST...
I FOUND THAT!*

Jn 17.20-23 - ²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be ONE, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be ONE in Us, *THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU SENT ME*. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be ONE just as We are ONE: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in ONE, and *THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME*, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

*CULTIVATING
A UNITY
THAT WILL SAVE
THE WORLD!*

BACK TO THE INTERNET!

*WHAT IS IT THAT
CULTIVATES UNITY?*

*INCREASED INTERACTIVITY?
INCREASED COMMUNICATION?*

*VEHICLES FOR TRANSPORTATION
MIGHT BE GOOD FOR
RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING...*

*DEPENDING ON WHO
CRAWLS OUT OF THE VEHICLE!*

MOM?

OR A MOBSTER HIT-TEAM?

IS IT SOUL? OR IS IT SPIRIT?

*UNITY MEETINGS?
THEY ARE GOOD...*

*BUT THE UNITY
DOESN'T COME
FROM THE MEETING!*

*THE MEETING IS THE VEHICLE!
THE UNITY COMES
FROM THE SPIRIT
THAT THE MEETING CARRIES!*

****STARTED RAINIER SPRINGS CHURCH**

*DOES THAT MEAN:
DON'T HAVE MEETINGS?
NO!*

*BUT IT DOES MEAN...
DON'T DEPEND ON MEETINGS
TO BRING UNITY!*

*THERE ARE SINCERE,
WELL-INTENTIONED PEOPLE*

*DESPERATELY TRYING
TO SPREAD A UNITY
IN THE BODY OF CHRIST
THAT THEY REALLY HAVEN'T
EXPERIENCED FOR THEMSELVES...*

ANYWHERE!

*WE CAN ONLY SPREAD UNITY
ANYWHERE...*

*TO THE DEGREE
WE HAVE REALLY
PERSONALLY
EXPERIENCED IT...
SOMEWHERE!*

*THIS IS HOW WE
CULTIVATE UNITY:*

*[FROM THE INSIDE OUT...
FROM THE GROUND UP...]*

IT... GROWS!!!

1. WE UNIFY WITH CHRIST!

ENLARGES OUR POTENTIAL
FOR UNITY EXPANSION
BEYOND OUR RELATIONSHIP
WITH JESUS!

ALL FURTHER UNITY
DEPENDS ON
THE QUALITY
AND DEPTH OF
OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION

2. UNIFY WITH A LOCAL CHURCH!

BECOME A 'BODY-PART'
THAT CONSISTENTLY
CONNECTS AND
COORDINATES WITH A
UNIT OF OTHER BODY PARTS!!

BECOME A
CONNECTED
'TEAM PLAYER'
IN THE SPIRIT!

ENLARGES OUR POTENTIAL
FOR FURTHER UNITY EXPANSION

NOW...

BEYOND OUR LOCAL CHURCH!

THE 'INTERNET'

SPEEDING UP
OUR COMMUNICATION
& INTERACTION

AMPLIFIES
OUR UNITY
OUTSIDE
OUR CHURCH

IN... THE... SPIRIT!

UNIFYING WITH CHRISTIANS
OUTSIDE OF CHURCH.....

BETWEEN CHURCHES
AND CHURCH LEADERS.....

WITH THE
GLOBAL BODY OF CHRIST.....

*AND AS WE
GROW IN
ALL THESE???*

*THE WORLD
WILL BELIEVE!*

Over 200 denominations in the U.S.
Over 45,000 Globally

Over 2 billion Christians =
2 BILLION DENOMINATIONS!

*"Every man doing what is right
In his own eyes!"*

45,000 PEOPLE [ON THE AVERAGE]
PER DENOMINATION!

HOW TO BE UNIFIED?

*CHRISTIANS
WHO ARE
FULL OF
THE SAME SPIRIT*

WILL

FIND EACH OTHER...

ACROSS ALL CHURCH...
AND DOCTRINAL...
& DENOMINATIONAL LINES!