

UNITY!

Jer 33.9 [ESV] – And THIS CITY shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall FEAR AND TREMBLE because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it.

A well-oiled, finely run machine!
A... BODY!!

OR...

Violence, strife and trouble are in the streets.
Like growling dogs they prowl around the city.
CANCER... IN THE BODY!

DIVISION

IN THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

1 Cor 1.10-13 - ¹⁰ Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's *household*, that there are ¹² contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Before

Paul dives into the gifts, ministries
and functions of the Corinthian church...

He chooses to deal with other issues...
like...

How they treat each other.
How well they get along with each other.
How unified they really are... or not!

"UNITY IS SO IMPORTANT GUYS!"
I GOT SOME NEWS FROM
CHOE'S FAMILY:
"THERE ARE DIVISIONS AMONG YOU!"

Chapter 1: Division and how it looks in the church

Chapter 2: The root cause of division

Chapter 3: How church
leaders and teachers
set the stage for Church unity...
or division

FALSE FORMS
OF UNITY
IN THE MODERN CHURCH

1. AROUND A RELIGIOUS SYSTEM
2. AROUND A STRONG... CENTRAL...CULT PERSONALITY
3. AROUND A SET OF DOCTRINES OR VALUES
4. AROUND A PURPOSE OR MISSION
5. AROUND A CULTURE, CODE OR HOLINESS DISCIPLINES
6. AROUND A GIFT OR MINISTRY

CONFORMED BEHAVIOR
 [NICE & KIND]
 LIKE WHITE-WASHED TOMBS
 CONTAINING
 LIPSTICK
 ON A PIG!

NOISY GONG AND CLANGING CYMBAL??!

FLESH WILL ALWAYS TRY TO COUNTERFEIT
 AND IMPERSONATE
 SPIRITUAL REALITIES!

AND THAT INCLUDES:
 UNITY!

THE SOURCE OF TRUE UNITY:
 GOD'S OWN!

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Ps 136.1-3 [NIV] - Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

² Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

His love endures forever.

"I'm the Lord! I change not!" – Mal 3

1 Pet 4.8 - ⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

LOVE COVERS THEM...
 BECAUSE IT'S THERE...
 BEFORE THE SIN LEAVES!

FERVENT:
 To stretch out completely taut;
 at maximum potential,
 without slack because fully extended

FLESH
More love ...requires less sin!

SPIRIT
Multitudes of sins
don't inhibit God's love!

QUESTION:
WAS GOD'S LOVE

[HIS UNITY WITH SINFUL MANKIND]

WORKING...
ON THE CROSS?

THAT REPRESENTS GOD'S END
OF RELATIONSHIP
WITH EVERY HUMAN BEING!

AND THAT
WILL NEVER...
CHANGE!

When we sin...
Does his grip loosen?
Or his affection cool?
[EVEN ONE DEGREE?]

When we sin more often...
THEN...
Does his grip loosen?
Does his affection cool?

The strength of his embrace
And the warmth of his affection...

REMAINS ABSOLUTELY THE SAME...
FOREVER!

HIS LOVE'S
CONSISTENCY AND DURABILITY...
has nothing to do with us...

GOD'S 'END'
IS ALWAYS IN THE 'ON' POSITION...
NEVER CHANGING...
INTO ETERNITY!

GOD...
IS NOT...
CANNOT BE...
THE VARIABLE!

HE'S... THE CONSTANT!!

WE... ARE THE ONLY VARIABLE...
IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!

He aggressively embraces people
regardless of their condition or merit.

That never changes...
even if
they commit many *great sins!*

DOES THAT
SOUND LIKE A
'WOKE' GOD?

DOES HE CARE ABOUT SIN?
HE *DIED*
OVER THE SIN ISSUE!

TO COME TO HIM...

People have to believe him...
and receive him!

IF THEY DO...

He will train people
That believe and receive...
like a father trains his children.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE?

He will remove
destructive people
in order to protect others.

BUT HIS LOVE
WILL NOT BE REMOVED!

'Suffering long... kind;
isn't provoked, thinks no evil;...
bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

IT... NEVER... FAILS!!!!

IT NEVER FALLS...
IT NEVER DECAYS!!!

*GOD REMAINS FAITHFUL...
FOREVER COMMITTED
TO HIS END
OF ALL RELATIONSHIPS!*

THAT'S UNITY... GOD-STYLE!

IT'S SIN-RESISTANT UNITY!

*HOW THAT
'UNITY'...
TRANSFERS TO US!*

1 Jn 3.2 - ²Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, *FOR WE SHALL SEE HIM AS HE IS.*

2 Cor 3.18 - ¹⁸But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

*GOD HAS
GOOD NEWS
FOR US THAT HAVE
HARD HEADS
AND COLD HEARTS!!!!*

Rev 3.14-22 - ¹⁴“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,
‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²²“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ”

Every person in this room
RIGHT NOW...
*AND EVERY MOMENT WE
LIVE ON EARTH...*
Has a discernable,
Recognizable... noticeable
KNOCKING SOUND
Deep within our spirits

That can be heard in our souls...

*IT'S GOD'S
DINNER BELL
FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME
WITH JESUS!!*

A voice saying:
"I'm in here!"

*SO WE SAY:
"What do I do, Jesus?"*

*HE SAYS: "SEE THAT BOLT?
SLIDE IT TO THE LEFT!"*

MORE... than a miraculous healing!

More than an encounter
Or heavenly visitation!

*[Some report where natural senses
Relate to the spiritual realm]...*

NOT A ONE NIGHT STAND!

A MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP
IS GROWN
AS WE GO THROUGH
TIME AND EXPERIENCE...
TOGETHER!

RELATIONSHIP
IS MORE THAN A HEFTY
PRAYER SCHEDULE EVERY DAY...
A MONASTIC, CLOSETED LIFE-STYLE!

LIKE ANDREW WOMMACK SAYS:
*"HOW I STAY FULL...
IS I NEVER DISCONNECT!"*

IT'S AN EVER-DEVELOPING
GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS

Speaking in tongues here...
Meditating on his word there...
Conscious of Him...
ALWAYS!

SPIRIT LEADS US INTO ALL...???
TRUTH!
ALL REALITY!!

NAVIGATES US THROUGH
ANY HUMAN
CONFLICT OF CIRCUMSTANCES...
SO EVERYBODY HAS AN
EQUAL CHANCE!!

***IMACULEE*

LIFE BEGINS GOING SIDEWAYS:
"I seek you now, Jesus!"

Emotions and mind are being weird!
"I seek you now, Jesus!"

*BECAUSE WE KNOW...
EVERYTHING WE NEED
FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS...
COMES THROUGH...
OUR KNOWLEDGE OF HIM!!*

1. *Scripture...*
2. *Praying in the Spirit...*
3. *Mix these with Faith...*
4. *And be patient over time!*

****SKI TOW ROPE!
[BACK TO SQUARE #1!!]**

**GOD'S END: FAITHFUL!
OUR END: EVER-INCREASING
FAITHFULNESS!**

**WHEN YOUR MIND AND EMOTIONS
GO HAYWIRE?**

**[YOU THINK:
"EVERYTHING I NEED
FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS...
IS IN KNOWING HIM!"]**

**RECEIVE
IN-THE-MOMENT
- LOVE
- WISDOM
- STRENGTH**

**'SOKAY!
I'M SEEKING HIM**

AND YOU'RE PUTTING JESUS AGAIN...

BACK AT THE HEAD OF THE PARADE...

WHERE HE BELONGS!!

**WHEN YOU FIND YOU'RE
LESS THAN PERFECT...
'SOKAY!
I'M SEEKING HIM**

**A WORRY OR FEAR HITS YOU
SUDDENLY?
'SOKAY!
I'M SEEKING HIM**

**WHEN JESUS IS PUT BACK
AT THE FRONT OF THE PARADE...**

**PEOPLE LOSE THEIR POWER OVER US!
Approval or disapproval?
Acceptance or rejection?**

**THE PROMISES OF GOD
LOSE THEIR POWER OVER US!**

Waiting for their fulfillment?
“WHEN... OH GOD? WHEN???”

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE...
LOSE THEIR POWER OVER US!
Success or failure?
Desires fulfilled or disappointed?

Acts 2.24-28 - ²⁴whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. ²⁵
FOR David says concerning Him:

‘I FORESAW [*I keep... I always see*] THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE MY FACE,
For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

²⁶ THEREFORE my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.

²⁷ For You will not leave my soul in Hades,

Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;

You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’

OBEYING HIM?
EASIER!
BELIEVING... W/O DOUBT?
EASIER!

HEALING THE SICK...
RAISING THE DEAD...
CASTING OUT DEVILS??!!!

EASIER!

“YOU WILL RECEIVE _____
WHEN THE SPIRIT COMES UPON YOU?”

POWER!
DUNAMIS!
WORKING...
OPERATIONAL...
ABILITY!

HARD THINGS...
[KNOWING GOD’S LOVE]
BECOME...
EASIER!

“AND YOU WILL BE _____?”

1. COURAGE TO SPEAK?
2. COURAGE TO BEAR WITNESS!

TO TESTIFY!

THIS IS WHAT I HEARD!
WHAT I SAW!
WHAT I’VE EXPERIENCED!

Heb 11.6 - ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a REWARDER OF THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.

WHAT WILL
TRUE UNITY
LOOK LIKE?

Rom 14.1-4 - RECEIVE ONE who is WEAK IN THE FAITH, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things.

RECEIVE: PROSLAMBANO:

LAMBANO:
To lay hold of with initiative.
Aggressively receive, welcome and embrace...
With strong personal interest.

'WEAK IN FAITH!'
[Gentile to Jew]
Strings attached! *They're in 'mixture'!*

BACK THEN:
Follow Sabbath Laws
Obligated to follow traditions of elders, etc.

NOW:
Christmas tree... or not?
Drink wine... or not?
Mow the lawn on Sunday... or not?

RECEIVE THEM!

² For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables. ³ Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; FOR GOD HAS RECEIVED HIM.

GENTILE TO JEW?
DON'T DESPISE!
Lacking weight or standing.
Counting as nothing or lacking value.
Treat with contempt. Think less of.
Look down on.

JEW TO GENTILE?
DON'T JUDGE!
To decide or determine
Whether right or wrong.
To take to trial.

RECEIVE HIM!
Our relationship with others
is modeled after
God's relationship with us!
EXACTLY!

Rom 14.4 - ⁴ WHO ARE YOU to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

“HEY! THAT’S MY SERVANT!
NOT YOURS!”

****TAXING/ENSLAVING BROTHERS**

ARE WE PUTTING ON PEOPLE
SOMETHING
TO HAVE RELATIONSHIP WITH US...

THAT GOD HASN’T PUT ON THEM...
OR ON US...
TO HAVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM?

Rom 15.5-7 - ⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, *[Just like Jesus has been toward us!]* ⁶ that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ THEREFORE RECEIVE ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS CHRIST ALSO RECEIVED US, TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

Our relationship with God is
Paid for...
cemented and secured
BY GRACE...
AND NOT BY OUR
PERFECT PERFORMANCE...
NOT... BY... LAW!!

IN EXACTLY
THE SAME WAY...

Our relationship with
EACH OTHER
IS ALSO... Paid for...
cemented and secured

BY GRACE...
AND NOT BY OUR
PERFECT PERFORMANCE!
NOT... BY... LAW!!

MY HOPE FOR
CROSSOVER’S UNITY
IN THE FUTURE:

A GROWING NUMBER
OF OUR MEMBERS ARE...

Knowing Jesus PERSONALLY!
Knowing Jesus INDIVIDUALLY!
Knowing Jesus... PRIVATELY!
KNOWING... JESUS!

Any future success

[as GOD would define success]

Will not come from
our talent, ability, hard work
or intelligence...

Or from having
Miracle-rich services...

THOSE THINGS ARE THE FRUIT...

BUT SEEKING GOD?

KNOWING GOD?

THAT'S... THE ROOT!!

SECRET TIME SPENT

by individual persons in Crossover...

Between them and God alone...

Patiently, privately

Day-by-day...

Cultivating a living, experiential,

Personal... heart-felt

Relationship with...

God...

WILL SOW THE SEEDS

IN SECRET

THAT WILL... IN DUE TIME...

PRODUCE THE HARVEST

OF FRUIT...

IN PUBLIC!

THERE'S ONLY ONE SOURCE

OF TRUE UNITY

AT CROSSOVER:

THE HOLY SPIRIT/...

THE REAL...

LOVE OF GOD!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY

TO GET IT:

SEEK GOD

TILL YOU FIND HIM!