

Family Values, pg. 4

August 29, 2026

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Unity

August 30, 2026

Division is not new...but it is getting easier to embrace it.

“Technology didn’t invent division. It just made avoiding difference effortless. A person can now build an entire social world without a single meaningful interaction with someone who votes differently, believes differently or sees things from a different vantage point entirely.”

—John Taylor

[Link to Article - Stop Cutting Off Everyone You Disagree With](#)

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you....

—Jesus, John 17:20-21a

Christlike Unity is not...

- Never saying “no”
- Conflict Avoidance

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

—Colossians 3:12-13

- Uniformity

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

—Matthew 10:2-4

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

—Ephesians 4:3-6

As Christians, we are united by...

- The Spirit of God
- The Hope we have in Christ
- Sharing Faith in God's Kingdom

Collective Effervescence - the feeling of energy and haron when people are engaged in a

The purpose of Christlike Unity is for the world to know and experience the love of God.

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

—Jesus, John 17:20-23

Pursuing Christlike Unity

1. Be Christ-centered

2. Pray for each other
3. Cultivate belonging
4. Be ready for forgiveness and eager for reconciliation
5. Live with

To join the Prayer Team, click the link and fill out the form: [Prayer Team](#)

And to learn more about all aspects of the Prayer Ministry at MSC, go to <https://www.mscwired.org/care>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jesus prayed that his followers would be “one.” What do you think Christlike unity looks like in practically in every day life, especially when Christians genuinely disagree about something? What makes unity different from simply avoiding disagreement?
- On Sunday, we talked about three things Christlike unity is not: never saying “no,” conflict avoidance, and uniformity. Which of these do you think is easiest for you to struggle with or misunderstand? Why do you think that is?
- Think about a relationship where there is tension, disagreement, or hurt. What would it look like to approach that person with “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience”? Is there a step toward forgiveness or reconciliation that God might be inviting you to take?
- Matthew and Simon the Zealot were united not because they agreed politically, but because they followed Jesus. What are some “secondary” things that can become more important to us than our shared identity in Christ?
- Is there an opinion, preference, relationship, or grievance that has become more central to you than Jesus? What would it look like to surrender that to Christ for the sake of unity—and for the sake of people who need to experience God’s love?