

Alignment Over Agreement

Ephesians 4:1-3 (KJV)

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There's a frustration almost everyone in this room has felt before.

It's that moment when something *should* be working... **but it's not.**

You've got the structure. You've got the design. Everything looks right. But there's no response. No movement. No power.

And you start adjusting things... checking things... wondering if something is broken.

Because deep down, you know:

“This was made for more than what I'm seeing right now.”

And if we're honest—that's where some people are spiritually.

You've got the **calling**.
You've got the **knowledge**.

You've got the history of what it felt like when things were alive.

But now?

Something's missing.

Not dead...
but not flowing.

And we start asking:

"Do I need something new?"

"Do I need something different?"

But what if the issue isn't what you have...

**What if the issue is what
you're connected to?**

(hold up the stick—don't activate it yet)

This right here was designed to light up.
Everything it needs is already inside of it.

(hold it without completing the circuit)

It looks ready... but nothing is happening.

Because design alone is not
enough without connection.

Now watch this—

(complete the circuit → it lights up)

The moment the connection is complete...
the power flows.

This is the key to some and
their growth in the Kingdom.

You're not lacking **power**...
You're lacking **connection**.

From the very beginning, God made this clear.

“It is not good that man should be alone.”

Not because man was weak—
but because man was designed for connection.

Ecclesiastes said, **“Two are better than one...”*

Paul said we are one body
with many members.

Which means:

You may function **alone**...
but you will never flourish **alone**.

(turn it off)

Now watch this.
Nothing inside changed.

The only thing that changed...
was the connection.

And this is where many people are.

God hasn't changed.

The Word hasn't changed.

The calling hasn't changed.

But **something interrupted the connection.**

Offense. Pride. Comparison. Unforgiveness.

**The enemy doesn't have to destroy you...
he just has to disconnect you.**

Because if he can isolate you —
he can drain you.

But let me take you deeper...

Because unity is not as clean
as we like to pretend.

When we think of unity, we imagine everything
smooth... perfect... identical.

But that's not how God designed it.
In the tabernacle, every piece of
furniture had precision.

Measured. Structured. Refined.

But when you get to the Ark of the Covenant—
something changes.

On top of the Ark sat two cherubim.

Not molded. Not cast. But *beaten*.

Hammered. Shaped through pressure.
Formed through impact.

**God didn't mold the cherubim...
He worked them.**

And if those cherubim represent
anything in the earth... They represent us.

The Church is not a collection of perfect people... **it's a gathering of people who've been shaped by pressure.**

Different personalities. Different background. Different experiences. Yet, brought together to form **ONE** body. (1 Corinthians 12:12)

And here's what's powerful:

When something is molded—
it comes out identical.

But when something is beaten work —
Every mark is different. Every dent is unique.
Every story is personal.
One cherub had marks the other didn't.

Exodus 25:18-20 (KJV)

And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.

Unity was never built on **sameness...
it was built on shared **purpose**.**

Now watch this... (volunteers)

The cherubim stretched their wings—
and their wings touched.

Connection.
Just like this—

(turn the stick on again)

Power flows where connection exists.
But here's the revelation that changed
everything for me:

Their wings were connected...
But their eyes were not on each other.

They weren't studying each other's dents.
They weren't comparing imperfections.
They weren't analyzing differences.

Their eyes were fixed on one place—
the mercy seat.

You can be connected to someone...
and not agree on everything... as long
as your focus is on the same thing.

**We've made unity about seeing eye to eye.
But God made unity about looking in the
same direction.**

Unity is not uniformity—it's shared focus.

And this is where we lose power.

Not because we're not in the room.

Not because we're not around each other.

But because our focus shifts.

We start looking at each other—
instead of looking at Him.

We start focusing on differences—
instead of the mercy seat.

(turn the stick off briefly)

And the circuit breaks.

Division is not always distance...
sometimes it's misplaced focus.

(turn it back on)

But when we reconnect—

When our wings stay linked...
and our eyes stay lifted...

Power flows again.

Psalm 133 teaches, where unity is the Lord
commands blessing...

Acts 2 teaches, where unity is power is present.

John 17 teaches, if Jesus prayed for Unity,
we ought to contend for it.

Contending for Unity causes us to park our
personalities at the door and put on the mind of Christ.

Why? Because we are better together.

Unity doesn't just feel good...
it activates heaven.

Group: Link several together.

He knows he can't overpower you when you're linked. So he targets your connections, because disconnection drains what strength cannot. **The enemy doesn't need to defeat you—just disconnect you.**

The enemy doesn't just wait for you to drift—he nudges you there. Every offense, every thought, every excuse is aimed at pulling you away. **Isolation is rarely accidental—it's often strategic.**

Whatever it takes - contend for connection around the glory of God...

Are we different? Absolutely.

Do we all have different opinions? Absolutely.

“Pastor, we're getting too big to stay unified...
It's hard to keep everyone aligned...”

Maybe. That might be true.

But difficulty does not cancel the assignment.

We were never called to manage convenience—
we were commissioned to **contend for the unity of the body.**

So we don't back off because it's hard—
we lean in and fight for it.

ALTAR CALL:

(turn the stick off... pause)

Some of you feel like this.

No fire.

No movement.

No clarity.

(turn it on)

But nothing is wrong with what's inside of you.

Only the connection changed.

God didn't leave you.

You just lost connection somewhere.

Maybe through offense.

Maybe through hurt.

Maybe through distraction.

But today...

You don't need a new identity.

You don't need a new calling.

You need reconnection.

Reconnect your heart.

Reconnect to His body.

Reconnect your focus to the mercy seat.

Because the moment the connection is restored... the power comes back.