

Nothing destroys a vision quicker than disunity.

Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. ²Some were saying, "We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain." Nehemiah 5:1-2

We don't drift into unity.

When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. ⁷I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, "You are charging your own people interest!" So I called together a large meeting to deal with them... Nehemiah 5:6-7

We have to make sure the kingdom of God is our highest priority.

...I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one...²³so 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. John 17:20-21, 23

Dealing with disunity...

...and said, "As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!" They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say. ⁹So I continued, "What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?" Nehemiah 5:8-9

- 1) Pray, 2) Seek God's Word, and 3) Deal with disunity head-on

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:1-6

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit because...

- We desperately need each other. (Romans 12:4-5)
- The world will see God's love. (Romans 15:7; John 13:34-35)
- We can do infinitely more together. (Acts 4:32-34)

So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. Nehemiah 6:15-16

Let's Connect

- Where do we need unity in our world right now?

Let's Talk About It

If your enemy can't destroy you, he will distract you. Disunity is a distraction you must deal with because nothing will kill a vision quicker than disunity. When the people of Israel were divided, Nehemiah stopped the work of building the wall to deal head-on with the problem of disunity. We make every effort to keep the unity in the family of God so that God will be glorified and the world will know that God sent Jesus.

Nehemiah 5:1-13; John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:1-6; Romans 12:4-5; Romans 15:7; John 13:34-35; Acts 4:32-34

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Read Nehemiah 5:1-7? Why is division such a costly distraction to a vision, the church, a workplace, a family?
- Read Nehemiah 5:8-12. Why do we often avoid dealing with division and disunity? What are some things that stand in our way of having difficult conversations? Where do you need to have a difficult conversation to preserve unity?
- Read Ephesians 4:1-6. To keep the unity of the Spirit, God's kingdom must be the highest priority of our lives. How might having politics, a personal agenda, or even a good cause as a higher priority than God's kingdom lead to division? What would it look like to have God's kingdom as your highest priority?
- Read Romans 15:7 and John 17:20-23. How can Christians walk in unity, even if they see some things differently?
- If all the Christians in your neighborhood were in complete unity, how would your community look different? How might the negative perceptions of Christians change?

Take a Step

- If you're experiencing disunity in some area of your life, pray, seek God's wisdom and deal with it head on.
- SOAP reading: **Day 1:** Psalm 143, Matthew 26; **Day 2:** Psalm 22, Matthew 27; **Day 3:** Psalm 39, Matthew 28; **Day 4:** Psalm 54, John 1; **Day 5:** Psalm 71, John 2; **Day 6:** Psalm 87, John 3; **Day 7:** Psalm 101, John 4

Here's My Prayer

- Lord, we pray for unity in the body of Christ. Make us one so the world will know that You love us and have sent Your Son, Jesus.
- Heavenly Father, thank you for miraculously bringing us to *The Willows* property. Please increase our faith and courage as we focus on You and move forward together in the process of taking possession of *The Willows*.