

ESSENTIALS OF UNITY

Scripture Reading: John 17:20-22

Introduction:

1. One of the great blessings of the church is its unity!
2. Unity of the church convinces the world that God sent us His Son!
3. Unity is accomplished in the church by...

I. DIVERSITY -1 Corinthians 12:1-ff

A. ONE BODY -MANY MEMBERS

1. Diversity is not the enemy of unity
2. There are many gifts, ministries, and activities -vs. 4-6
3. All were baptized into one body

B. EVERY MEMBER IS IMPORTANT

1. Two attitudes that hinder unity:
 - a. "I am not" attitude -vs. 15-17
 - b. "You are not" attitude -vs. 20-22
2. Every member is essential in moving the body toward the common goal!

C. EACH MEMBER IS JOINED TOGETHER BY LOVE

1. When one hurts, the body hurts. When one is honored, the body is honored -vs. 26, 27
2. By our love men will know we are His disciples -Jn 13:34, 35

II. HUMILITY -Ph 2:1-4

A. NOTHING THOROUGH SELFISH AMBITION OR CONCEIT

1. "Success is not seen in who gets ahead of others, but in who helps others get ahead."
2. E.g. The Christian life compared to the game of tennis; "You cannot score unless you serve"

B. ESTEEM OTHERS BETTER THAN YOURSELF

1. E.g. the hardest instrument to play; "second fiddle"
2. We must remove focus from self and place it on others

III. ACTIVE SERVICE -Mt 25:14-30

A. EACH RECEIVED TALENT IN DIFFERENT AMOUNTS

1. Each based on his own ability -vs 15
2. It is not the amount, but what we do with what we have that matters

B. EACH WERE REWARDED BASED ON HIS DEEDS

1. Both the 5 and 2 talented holders were rewarded -vs 21, 23
2. They both used what they had for good

C. LESSONS FROM THE ONE-TALENTED MAN

1. We must not neglect what God has given us
2. Do not let fear control your destiny -2Ti 1:7

Conclusion:

1. Unity is accomplished through diversity, humility, and active service.
2. READ: Psalms 133:1-3