

one faith

back to basics | week five

october 15th & 18th | sam meredith



REVIEW

- Jesus said He would build His church - we want to be His Church
- Jesus told His disciples to go and make more disciples - we want to be His Disciples
- Jesus is the standard of life, righteousness & love - we want to grow in Christlikeness
- Jesus is the rightful King of the earth - we want His reign in every area of our lives

PREVIEW - Today... Jesus prayed for the unity of His disciples - we want to be unified for His glory

- Unified around Jesus' Teachings (which includes His identity, example and methods)
- Unified in a way that testifies to the watching world
- Unified in our defense of His Teachings
- Invite God to examine every area of our lives to expose any pride and disunity

1. Jesus Prayed for Our Unity | John 17:20-21 (NLT)

- Jesus and the Father's relationship is the model for our relationships
- Our abiding relationship with God **and** each other directly relates to other people's view of Jesus
- By the Holy Spirit, God lives in us to help us

2. Unified around Jesus' Teachings (which includes His identity, example and methods)

John 8:31-32 (NLT) Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- We need to:
 - **Know** it (head) - John 10:27; Eph 4:5-6
 - **Believe** it (heart) - John 14:1; Rom 10:9-10
 - **Do** it (hands) - John 14:23; Matt 7:24; James 1:22

3. Unified in Practicing Jesus' Teaching (loving God by loving others)

Col 3:12-15 (NLT) Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

- God loves us and knows doing life His way (holiness) is what's best for us
- We're to keep **practicing** His Ways, especially in how we view and treat others
- Making allowance for each other's faults
- Not so easily offended
- Holding onto thankfulness and letting go of criticism – can't hold on to both at the same time

4. Unified in our Defense of Jesus' Teachings

Jude 1:3b (NASB95) I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

- **"The Faith"** - Jesus' teachings handed down through the Apostles (1 Tim 6:3-5)
 - Foundations of The Faith - Historical Christianity - see handout/link in the App and our doctrinal statement
- Contend/defend - "We don't fight like the devil for the things of God" - JP
- We are to engage in conversations with the wisdom of God (2 Tim 2:22-26; James 1:5; 3:13-18)

Personal Prayer and Reflection:

- Invite God to examine every area of your life and to expose any pride and disunity

Psalms 139:23-24 (NLT) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Practical Application

1. Are you praying *with* Jesus, for the unity of His church? Our church?
 - a. (What does your prayer life look like?)
2. Do you know and believe His teachings?
 - a. (What are rhythms you have to spend time in God's Word?)
3. Are you living them out in a way that testifies to the watching world that He is for real?
 - a. (Off with the old, on with the new – reliance on the Holy Spirit's indwelling power and transformation?)
4. Are you contending for the faith with not only courage but Holy Spirit self-control and love?
 - a. The truth but in love - desiring the best for the other, not seeking to win an argument or prove your rightness
 - b. Are you planning to **vote No on Prop 1** and protect the lives of the vulnerable (Prov 24:11-2; 31:8-9)

