

11-6-16 From 9-20-92 Evening Message
THE NATURE OF UNITY AND DIVISION

Genesis 11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Genesis 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Genesis 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Genesis 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

This Evening I want to preach on the nature of Unity and Division.

Review:

The Lord said clearly that at the tower of Babel, the people were one.

Three elements that make for unity:

- 1. Good Communication.***
- 2. A Mutual Goal or work.***
- 3. A similar spirit or purpose:***

When these three things are disrupted our unity is disrupted.

What was the cause of this disruption in Genesis? The tower of Babel!

Intro. CONSIDER: What made the tower of Babel so wrong?

1. It was an endeavor or work that sought to magnify man, filled with pride:
Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.
2. It was an endeavor that was in complete violation to the word of God.
Lest we be scattered, God said scatter.
3. It was a project that was part of an Idolatrous worship:
High place to worship a false God.

If we have division, look for the tower of Babel in our lives:

God may send a spirit of division in our lives as a judgment against our idolatry:

BUILDING UNITY IN THE CHURCH

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

I. Learn to protect your lines of communication:

A. By all means do everything to keep these lines of communication open between brothers and sisters:

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Matthew 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Matthew 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

B. Realize that a broken relationship with a brother on earth will destroy your communication with your God in heaven!

I Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 11:26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

C. Learning to agree to disagree is a shallow answer and inevitably will lead to divisions, when two people disagree, either one is right or both are wrong:

In Corinth all were wrong!

I Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

I Corinthians 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

I Corinthians 1:12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

I Corinthians 1:13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

II. Discover God's Ministry For you in the local Church and get busy doing this work!

At the tower of Babel they were one, and they all had a common goal and work they were endeavoring to do.

Genesis 11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

The problem we have is that most people do not look at their involvement in the Church as an important part of building and working together in the ministry:

How much effort do you put forth in the ministry?

I Corinthians 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

I Corinthians 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

I Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

I Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

I Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE TO BUILD?

Everyone seeks their own and not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

Teachers are late for S.S.

Ladies ministry of cleaning.

Visiting.

Choir.

Giving: God loves a cheerful giver.

Ushers.

Helpers, tape ministry, book store.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

III. STRIVE TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT (HOLY SPIRIT OF CHRIST).

Psa. 1:1-3 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psa 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psa 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

At the tower of Babel they all had one Spirit to work.. even though it was a false spirit! THE LORD SAID BEHOLD THE PEOPLE ARE ONE.

Unity is a powerful thing, and when people are one Spirit almost nothing can stop them.

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

I Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Marriage is the clearest picture of what a church should be:

Just as a husband and wife are one flesh so in the church we should be one spirit with Christ.

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

II Corinthians 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Malachi 2:14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

Malachi 2:15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

Malachi 2:16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: **therefore take heed to your spirit**, that ye deal not treacherously.

Marital problems are spiritual problems, take heed to your spirit, so it is in the church.

Consider Communion:

One loaf, One Cup.

I Corinthians 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

I Corinthians 11:19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

I Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

I Corinthians 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

I Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

I Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

I Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

I Corinthians 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

I Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

We have the same problems in the church as we do in the home!

BY FELLOWSHIPING WITH A PERSON WHO DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME SPIRIT AS CHRIST YOU CAN PICK UP A BAD SPIRIT

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Galatians 3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Galatians 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Conclusion:

How sad it is that a group of unsaved people could manifest the ingredients of unity for a lessor cause than we have.

If it were not for God's intervention they would have succeeded.

SO TOO.. WE WOULD SUCCEED BUT THERE IS AN ENEMY THAT FIGHTS AGAINST US.

That enemy is Satan and what he does is that he seeks to disrupt our unity because he knows that when we are united we will succeed.

Three ingredients needed for unity.

- 1. Good Communication (He gets us mis communicating)**
- 2. A Mutual Goal or work (He gets us sidetracked in that work)**
- 3. A similar spirit or purpose: (he sends a false spirit)**

II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

So I close with this admonition:

Be not ignorant of the devices that cause spiritual division!