

Unity

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As I look around at the body of believers in this world, it is hard at times to believe that we all profess to be one family,
To have the same Heavenly Father,
To be brothers and sisters.

So for today I want to share some thoughts about

Unity In The Body Of Christ.

Don't we love to read about the blessings that God has for us and the things that He loves for us to do,

But, maybe we also need to read about those things that HE hates as well.

Let's take a look at some of those things that He hates...

Proverbs 6v 16 - 19

16 *There are six things which the LORD hates,
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:*

17 *Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
And hands that shed innocent blood,*

18 *A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that run rapidly to evil,*

19 *A false witness who utters lies,
And one who spreads strife among brothers.*

Wow, what a dreadful list of things, hard to believe that believers and followers of Messiah would do any of them isn't it?

I would encourage you to read the whole of chapter 6...

But for me today it is these verses from 16-19 I want to share on.

We have to get away from these things, that unbelievably are running rampant in the church today...

We **definitely** have to get away from these things if we want to enjoy walking in His blessing.

I was pondering these verses and wondered why these were **specifically** mentioned.

I mean I know that God hates **ALL** sin, but why were these ones were highlighted?

I really believe that they were because **each** of these sins contributes to **disunity** among the people of God.

Let's look at the list again....

Proud,

Lying,

Hands shedding blood,

The heart devising wicket imaginations,

*The feet running off to do mischief,
False witness and someone sowing discord.*

However, in spite of the fact that there is all of this division amongst the body of Christ, it is also beautiful to see that so many more are now really starting to come together as one family.

Just look at this group here online or offline...

From all parts of the world,

Without labels, just as we should be, united with one Father, because of the sacrifice of Yeshua and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Bonded together because of Yeshua who died for us,

Who loves us,

Who created us....

There is nothing that we have done of ourselves.

And even out of this part of HIS family, there are still some factions of the Body of Christ coming together in a way that they never have before.

People from all over the world -

All one in Messiah,

NO denominations but still all in one accord.

It feels good....

It is good...

It is family!

It is the way that God meant for us to be.

When God's people come together,
there is something special, like nothing that the world can come even close
to offering.

There is a feeling of belonging, of being one.

People from different streams in life and together we sing the songs of
Zion,

We worship together,

We pray together and for each other.

I know we are not to live our lives on *how we feel*,

But this unity in His family does feel good and right, and that feeling is for
a reason.

It is because ...

IT IS WHAT WE ARE MEANT TO BE DOING!

We come together as a company of people that acknowledge the ONE TRUE
GOD.

A company of people that may have a few minor differences but one never
the less that is united in who we are and who we serve!

Maybe that is the problem today.

That we all sometimes major on the minor things, instead of majoring on the
things that are right...

And that is definitely NOT a good thing to do!

We should be majoring on how much we do have together.

You know I am not just talking about individual groups here or even those ones we know,

I am talking about the whole body of Christ...

Even those that do use labels.

Labels in themselves are not bad; they are only bad if they are used to separate themselves from others.

To say we have something better than you,

We have truth you don't have,

We are holier than you others etc...

You know what I mean.

Labels should never stop brothers and sisters in Christ all coming together as one family and worshiping together and serving HIM.

Let's look at that passage again in Proverbs

Proverbs 6v 16 - 19

16 *There are six things which the LORD hates,
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:*

17 *Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
And hands that shed innocent blood,*

18 *A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that run rapidly to evil,*

19 *A false witness who utters lies,
And one who spreads strife among brothers.*

These things God hates because they **do** contribute to disunity and destruction of God's people.

But sadly, they are alive and well in the church today...

You know,

I believe that we are all very much aware that even in these days... there is a real moving of GOD'S Spirit in the church. I totally believe that HE is separating the goats from the sheep.

And if we know that, then we can also be assured that the enemy also knows it.

That is one of the weapons that the enemy is trying to use more than anything else against believers...

To divide each other against each other.

And so many buy into satans plans and lies.

If the enemy can get believers divided against each other, then they will do his work for him....

Think about that....

Think about how the enemy's work is done for him when brothers and sisters in Christ battle each other and have divisions...

Makes me stop now and think about my feelings,
My moods and my upset moments at times...

Is this causing confusion?

Hurt,

Division,

Most of the time it is...?

And it is certainly not Gods way.

HE never causes division and confusion.

Think about it...

The more that you and I and other brothers and sisters are divided, then the more we are doing the devils work for him.

He doesn't have to do a thing if we are all fighting against each other.

He can sit back and enjoy,

Well for me, a while back I decided that I **will not** be part of his games in that way any more.

I do believe we still have to stand up against those groups and churches that are teaching false and dangerous doctrines and false prophets, but those are not who I am talking about at this time.

Let's turn to

John 13:34-35

34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 " By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

A new suggestion I give to you.....

Oops did I read that wrong? Let me try that one again...

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

"By this **all men** will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

This is not optional... it is a commandment!

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

How do all men know that we are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Because we have a sticker in our car window?

Because we have a Tee shirt that says so?

NO....

Because...

WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

The way the world is going to know about Jesus is when they see a demonstration of love between His followers.

A new commandment is NOT a suggestion...

If Jesus says it, then we ought to believe it!

AND we most definitely should act upon it.

It is a commandment,

And a commandment means that we actually have to

DO IT...

And if you think I am repeating myself, then you are right because I am...

It is **NOT** an optional extra.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

I WAS THINKING...

If Jesus said a new commandment, I give unto you...

I wondered what the old one was.

Turn to

Mark 12 28:31

28 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?"

29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD;

30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'

31 "The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Love your neighbour as yourself...

This is another as we love ourselves commandment and unfortunately, it failed because we failed to do it...

The first commandment we failed at and Jesus came and gave us a new commandment that we love one another [*not as we loved ourselves*]

But as **HE** loved us.

The first one failed but the second one won't... He gave us the example to follow!

We all need love...

Most of us can get by without too much in the material things, but we **ALL** need love.

We need love and we need **TO** love.

A lot of us find it difficult to demonstrate love....

Or we may have done in the past,

People just do not exist well with just a little or no love,

Or just some tossed occasionally.

The **OLD** commandment was to for us to love our neighbour as we love our self...

If we have only learnt to love our self in a limited and sort of warped way then we **will** fail loving our neighbour properly, because we will love them the way we love ourselves.

A lot of us would fail in that area.

I do not always love myself very much...

I would hate to love anyone else the same way that I have loved myself at times...

A NEW COMMANDMENT is very simple...

We are to love one another as Jesus loved us...

How does Jesus love us?

Sacrificially -

HE gave His life for us all.

How does Jesus love?

His love has

NO Limits

NO Boundaries

IS endless

That is how we are to love the people around us.

See, it is not reliant on how we feel about ourselves or what the circumstances we are in now;

It is on how **HE** loves us.

*"... that you love one another, even as **I** have loved you, that you also love one another."*

I know that I personally have many lessons to learn about loving correctly, but Jesus is our perfect example of perfect love.

We are to love one another according to the New Commandment...

The way that Jesus loves...

I am so thankful that Jesus does not love me the way I love others at times...

So maybe this is a message to the church today.

The church has for a long time, lacked in the area of loving people and especially in loving the way that Jesus told us in the New Commandment.

HOWEVER, it **does** have to start with us each as individuals and together as a family.

Unity in the Church and family of Messiah....

Think about this...

If we all in HIS family, acted a little more redeemed...

Then *maybe* **MORE** unsaved people out in the world would believe and accept our redeemer!

14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

16 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

19 "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;

23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

Read all that passage to get the context...

V 23 - 23

Jesus praying/interceding to His Father on behalf of the church for unity...

V 22 that they may be one

There are three things here about unity

1... The call for unity...

In v 21 + 23 Jesus gives a compassioned call here for unity

2... In v 21 Jesus gives us the model for unity... *As You Father*

3... Basis for unity

Now we have a call,

A model,

And a basis for unity...

Our basis for unity is in Christ, it is NOT dependant on how many songs we sing,

How often we partake of Communion,

If we say Jesus or Yeshua,

It is based in Christ alone.

Read those verses again...

And notice how many times Jesus repeats the words be one as we are one...

Unity. Even as you Father are in Me and I in you...

He is repeating these words...

He is giving the call for unity and we as a family of believers need to listen.

If we as a family of believers could really take hold of and see the strength in Unity in the way that Jesus prayed for it,

Then what a difference it would make to the church today.

The result of unity

*v 21 that they may all **be one**; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, **so that the world may believe that You sent Me.***

*v23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, **so that the world may know that You sent Me**, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.*

Jesus does not say it once here but he says it **twice!**

How will the world believe in Jesus?

How will the world know that Christ has been sent to this earth?

WHEN WE LIVE TOGETHER AS ONE!

Here is a picture of unity...

Next time you are in the woods, try to imagine what's taking place under your feet.

When the roots of trees come into contact with one another, they actually form an underground network.

If one tree has access to water,

Another to nutrients,

And a third to sunlight,
Then a sharing takes place which strengthens them all.

What a beautiful picture!

Paul says that in the Body of Christ, **'Every joint supplies'**

Eph 4:16

from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Not just the prestigious joints - every joint!

There is a degree of glory in you that is not in me.

I need you to release the purpose of God that is within me.

In this age of personal kingdom building, I have to wonder, if many are really interested in unity?

John 17:21

*"That all of them may be one; Father, just as you are in Me and I am in You...
So that the world may believe"*

Jesus prayed that we would have the same unity with each other that He had with the Father.

You say, "*But how?*"

Listen,

'that the love you have for **Me** - may be in them"

John 17:26

26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Jesus prayed that we would have the same love for Him that the Father had.

Think about that for a moment!

That love would never do anything to hurt any part of His body.

If God calls a man His son,
Start calling him your brother!

Share with him the deposit God has placed within you,
And receive with humility what he has to give back.

When this happens, the church will be a force for God to be reckoned with.

We do need to evangelise,

But the effect of our evangelism will be in proportion I believe to the unity in the body of Christ.

Jesus said,

"The world will believe He has been sent and the world will know ---"

When?

When we live together as one!