

15. How can we *be devoted to prayer* on one another's behalf this week?



Message #117: *Pray for Unity for God's Glory*

June 25, 2017

*Sermon*  
*Notes*

**Quotes to Ponder**

*Unity does not come when we seek it;  
rather, it is a by-product of seeking to follow Christ.*

Timothy Keller

*God alone is doubtless the Author of patience and consolation; for He conveys both to our hearts by His Spirit: yet He employs His Word as the instrument.*

John Calvin

*You are somebody's disciple. You learned how to live from somebody else. There are no exceptions to this rule, for human beings are just the kind of creatures that have to learn and keep learning from others how to live.*

Dallas Willard

*We must view each other with grace-goggles on rather than the spectacles of criticism that highlight faults and show no grace.*

Mark Vaughan

*Just as verse 4 is essentially a call to rely on God's power through His Word, verse 5 is essentially a call to rely on His power through prayer.*

John MacArthur

*Although God wants us to be brethren,  
He does not mean that we are to be identical twins.*

Donald Grey Barnhouse

*Harmony in the midst of diversity requires a sense of wide-eyed wonder at the greatness of God.*

Bruce Goettsche

*We shall be likeminded with one another when we become likeminded with Christ; but not till then.*

Charles Spurgeon

*The emphasis here is not that we see everything eye to eye, but rather that we regard one another with minds that are filled with and focused on the Lord as we "follow Jesus Christ." The fact is, most of us are nitpickers by nature.*

R. Kent Hughes

1. What in the text or sermon impacted you most? What encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?
  
2. Does unity mean that we all must come to have the same opinions or convictions about everything (*Romans 14:1, 5, 22*)? If so, why? If not, what does unity mean?
  
3. What does *Romans 15:5* mean when it says to be *of the same mind with one another*?
  
4. What is the connection between the *perseverance and encouragement* mentioned in *verse 4* and the *perseverance and encouragement* mentioned in *verse 5*?
  
5. As we struggle to decide what is right and wrong, and to accept others we disagree with, what encouragement do we have?  
*Romans 15:4-6* —  
  
*Romans 15:13* —
  
6. In *Romans 15:5-13* Paul is writing about the unique unity churches have. What do *verses 5-7* tell us about how Christian unity is formed?
  
7. How does Paul proclaim the deity and humanity of Jesus in *Romans 15:6*?
  
8. What should be the consuming passion of all believers (*Romans 15:6; 1 Corinthians 10:31*)?

9. How does our unity glorify God (*Romans 15:6*)?

10. What did Jesus pray for us in *John 17:13-26*?

What did Jesus pray for at the greatest length? Why?

11. What criteria should we use to decide whether to join a church community service or project?

12. What can I do to be *diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace* (*Ephesians 4:3*)?

13. Read *Romans 15:1-8*. What profile of a healthy church is found here?

*Verse 1* —

*Verse 5* —

*Verse 2* —

*Verse 6* —

*Verse 3* —

*Verse 7* —

*Verse 4* —

*Verse 8* —

14. **Reflection Questions:** How committed am I to praying for and pursuing unity among ALL the people of ABC? Am I seriously praying for those I don't get along with? Do I look for opportunities to make sacrifices for others so that our church might be more unified? Am I willing to go out of my way to interact pleasantly with those who disagree with me? Is it better to get my way and please myself or is it better to give in and please a fellow Christian?