

DIVIDED: A United Church In A Divided World

John 17:20-23

Introduction:

- A. You have probably heard it said, “United we stand, divided we fall” and the more we see both unity and division on display, the more we understand this statement to be true.
- B. We are living in the midst of a very difficult and divided country.
- C. The church must remain united even in the midst of a divided world. We must not allow a pandemic, an election or anything else to divide the church.

Unity is Important for the Church

- A. The Bible has quite a lot to say about the importance of being unified (Eph. 4:1-3; I Pet. 3:8).
- B. David said, “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity” (Psa. 133:1).
- C. Our unity is not just a good and pleasant thing, but a very important thing too.

Jesus Prayed for the Unity of all Believers (Jn. 17:20-23)

- A. Jesus understood unity was one of the key ingredients for the church’s success (vs. 21. 23).
- B. Jesus told His disciples to love one another as He had loved them (John 13:34-35).
- C. The early church’s unity was one of the leading factors to its growth (Acts 2:42-47).

How Can the Church Be United In A Divided World?

- A. Remember our purpose is to be an ambassador for Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17-20).
 - 1. We should spend more time telling people about Jesus and His Gospel than we do about a certain candidate and his policies.
 - 2. Jesus’ purpose was to seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10).
- B. Remember our allegiance is to Jesus and Jesus alone (Gal. 3:26-28).
 - 1. When Jesus called the first disciples, he called them to follow Him (Matt. 4:18-22).
 - 2. The early Christians understood their allegiance was to Jesus above all else (Acts 5:27-29; 17:5-8).
- C. Remember our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20-21).
 - 1. God delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son (Col. 1:13).
 - 2. Since this world is only our temporary home, we must be careful not to become too attached (I Pet. 2:11).

Conclusion:

- A. When we dwell together in unity we make things more difficult for the devil.
- B. Jesus’ desire was for His people to be united so the world could come to know Him.
- C. Are we, as a congregation of God’s people, doing our part to fulfill the Lord’s wish of being united together as one?