

The Necessity of Unity

Devotional

Unity is such an important thing. It's also, like, a scary thing. But we all think we have the best idea. The world needs Jesus, and He needs the church to unite, period. Unity is not just a concept but a necessity for the church to fulfill its mission and effectively spread the gospel. When we look at the early church in Acts 4:32, we see that they were of one heart and mind. This oneness allowed them to thrive and grow, spreading the message of Jesus far and wide. Unity requires us to believe that God is who He says He is and to trust in His detailed plans. It also requires complete obedience and the willingness to know our place and value the place of others. Let's strive for unity in our church, knowing that it is essential for our mission.

Bible Verse All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. - Acts 4:32

Reflection Question How can you contribute to the unity of your church community today?

Quote The world needs Jesus and he needs the church to unite, period.

Prayer Lord, help us to be united in heart and mind, just as the early church was. Give us the strength to trust in Your plans and to value each other's roles within the body of Christ. Amen.

Trusting in God's Plan

Devotional

Oneness in the body requires us to trust that God has a plan. That's the most reassuring thing I've ever heard. There is detail and order in the way God orchestrates things. We don't get to take God's plan and adjust it to ours. In Joshua 6:1-2, we see how God had a specific plan for the Israelites to conquer Jericho. They had to trust and follow His instructions precisely. Similarly, we must trust that God has a detailed plan for our lives and our church. This trust is foundational for unity because it aligns our hearts and minds with God's will, not our own.

Bible Verse Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. Then the Lord said to Joshua, 'See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.' - Joshua 6:1-2

Reflection Question In what areas of your life do you need to trust God's plan more fully?

Quote Oneness in the body requires us to trust that God has a plan. That's the most reassuring thing I've ever heard.

Prayer Father, help us to trust in Your detailed and perfect plan. Give us the faith to follow Your instructions and the courage to align our will with Yours. Amen.

Complete Obedience

Devotional

Oneness in the body requires complete obedience. Partial obedience is still disobedience. In Joshua 6:3-5, God gave specific instructions to Joshua on how to conquer Jericho. The Israelites had to follow these instructions to the letter to achieve victory. Similarly, we must practice complete obedience to God's Word and His guidance. This obedience fosters unity because it ensures that we are all moving in the same direction, aligned with God's will. When

we obey God fully, we create an environment where unity can thrive, and the church can fulfill its mission effectively.

Bible Verse March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in. - Joshua 6:3-5

Reflection Question Are there areas in your life where you are practicing partial obedience? How can you move towards complete obedience?

Quote Oneness in the body requires complete obedience. Partial obedience is still disobedience.

Prayer Lord, help us to obey You completely. Remove any areas of partial obedience in our lives and give us the strength to follow Your commands fully. Amen.

Knowing Our Roles

Devotional

Oneness in the body requires us to know our place and value the place of others. Maybe you need to hear this, but there is no room for pride or jealousy. In Joshua 6:6-7, we see that everyone had a specific role to play in the conquest of Jericho. Joshua commanded the priests and the people, and they all did their part. Similarly, in the church, we all have unique roles and gifts that contribute to the overall mission. Recognizing and valuing each other's roles fosters unity and helps the church function effectively. Let's strive to appreciate and support each other, knowing that every role is important in God's plan.

Bible Verse So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, 'Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.' And he ordered the army, 'Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord.' - Joshua 6:6-7

Reflection Question Do you recognize and value the roles of others in your church community? How can you better support them?

Quote Oneness in the body requires us to know our place and value the place of others. Maybe you need to hear this, but there is no room for pride or jealousy.

Prayer Father, help us to know our roles and to value the roles of others. Remove any pride or jealousy from our hearts and help us to support each other in unity. Amen.

Consistency and Patience

Devotional

Oneness in the body requires consistency and patience. Sometimes it gets harder before it gets easier. We don't like monotonous life. In Joshua 6:11-14, the Israelites had to march around Jericho for six days before they saw any results. This required consistency and patience. Similarly, in our walk with God and in our efforts to maintain unity in the church, we need to be consistent and patient. Unity doesn't happen overnight; it requires ongoing effort and

perseverance. Let's commit to being consistent and patient, trusting that God will bring about the results in His perfect timing.

Bible Verse So he had the ark of the Lord carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there. Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets kept sounding. So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. - Joshua 6:11-14

Reflection Question In what areas of your life do you need to practice more consistency and patience?

Quote Oneness in the body requires consistency and patience.

Prayer Lord, give us the strength to be consistent and patient in our efforts to maintain unity. Help us to trust in Your timing and to persevere even when it gets hard. Amen.