

REVIVE

WEEK 2: HUMILITY

MAY 4/5, 2019

CONGREGATIONAL SUPER GLUE

EPHESIANS 4:1-6

PASTOR SAM EVANS

The church is united when (vs. 1-3):

- a. We are what the Scriptures say we are
- b. We act with total humility and gentleness towards one other
- c. We are patient with one other
- d. We lovingly put up with one another
- e. We urgently pursue unity and peace

Unity is built on a solid foundation of seven “ones” (vs. 4-6):

- a. One body, one Spirit, and one hope
- b. One Lord, one faith, one baptism
- c. One God and Father

PASTOR'S CHAT

I went to grammar school at a time when dinosaurs still roamed the earth. We would begin each class day by standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance - "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Today some schools repeat the pledge, some do not. In some schools the day begins with the pledge, but students have the option to sit it out. Perhaps this is an indication of the deep divisions that we now have in our nation. There may be many reasons to explain these changes, but it cannot be denied that we are no longer a nation "under God." Our nation's laws and behaviors reflect a post-Christian worldview. The only natural outcome of such a view is division. We are living in a modern-day type of Judges 17:6, "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (see also 21:25) Coupled with this is a pervasive sense that life should be a Burger King experience - we ought to have it our way. If legislators were to give away free steak, vegetarians would rise up en masse and demand an alternative! Is it any wonder that we are divided? How could it be otherwise?

The church is not, nor ever should be, like the world, we are called to be counter-culture in every way. In terms of unity we are called to be one body and one Spirit. We have one hope, one Lord, one faith and one baptism. Together we have one God and Father. Collectively this is the "spiritual super glue" that binds the body of Christ together. Unlike the world, the church must not be

divided (the obvious exception would be over heretical teaching - then there must be division). When the world looks at the church and sees divisions, factions, disputes, or our seeming inability to love one another, it communicates a message that the Gospel isn't true. This isn't to say that we have to agree on all things related to church but it does mean that we must disagree without being disagreeable.

As we look forward to the next season for Rolling Hills Covenant Church let us make every effort to maintain unity in the body. According to Ephesians 4, believers are not told to become one. We are told that we are already one and are expected to act like it. This week's lesson in our Revive study is on unity in general and how that begins with humility. On page 50 of the Revive book there is an insightful quote attributed to Rupert Meldinus, "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity." May we humbly be united in the essentials, may we allow room for differing views on the non-salvific issues, and may we act charitably towards all.

In the days of the Judges, Israel had no king. The church today has King Jesus. He is the One around whom we rally, to whom we are submitted, and for whose cause we are united. A church that is sold out for Christ, and deeply committed to loving one another, will get the attention of a divided world. These are the seeds of revival.

~ Pastor Sam Evans