



Midtown Messenger

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When Unity Causes Confusion

by: Ronnie Scherffius

*H*ow wonderful is unity! When it exists much work is accomplished, but when it does not exist precious little will be done. How powerful is unity! Scarcely can be found the power that can hinder a unified force, but without unity there is chaos and certain defeat. How beautiful is unity! In its presence is peace and harmony, but in its absence disunity, conflict, and strife. Yet, we find at times unity, though still very powerful, can be neither wonderful nor beautiful!

In the postdiluvian world man was in complete unity and harmony. That harmony, however, was disallowed by God because man's unity was not for the purpose of God's will. Consider the text of the "tower of Babel":

And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men built. And the LORD

said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. (Gen. 11:1-8)

Unity among men at that time was so powerful God said, "**nothing** will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (v 6). Yet, God destroyed their unity by confusing the language. Three reasons immediately present themselves as to why the unity of man at that time was not good. First, God had commanded man to "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." (Gen. 9:1). Man's reasoning: "lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (v. 4) was in direct contradiction to God's will. Second, man's purpose was founded upon his pride: "let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name" (v. 4). Third, the imaginations of man apart from God's directions are never good (Prov. 16:25; Jer. 10:23). Thus we see that unity, though always powerful, is not always a wonderful and beautiful thing. The goodness of unity among men is predicated upon being unified according with God. There is also a time when unity in the church is not a good thing.

There is a time when unity among Christian brethren, though powerful, is neither wonderful nor beautiful.

Unity is not good when Christian brethren are unified in error. Amos inquired, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). The two under consideration here were God and the nation of Israel. The people were unified in greed, injustice, immorality and idolatry (Amos 2:7-8). Though unified as a people their unity was not according to God's will. Thus unity, even among God's people, is not a beautiful thing when it unifies them in sin! Unity is not good when Christian brethren are unified in error.

Unity is not good when Christian brethren are unified in failing to encourage. After warning, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" (Heb. 3:12), the Hebrews writer admonished, "But exhort one another" (Heb. 3:13). Paul wrote, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Eph. 4:29). We often apply Paul's words to "foul language and cursing" but would it not also apply to language such as gossip, rumor mongering, and complaining that discourages and disheartens? Unity is not good when Christian brethren are unified in failing to encourage.

Unity is not good when Christian brethren are unified in keeping the status quo when the status quo is "doing nothing." Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few" (Lk. 10:2). The work of the church truly is great because it is the work of God. The work of the church is also great in the sense that there is much work to be done. Sadly, there are few laborers! Most prefer to watch, give orders, express dissatisfaction, critique, or complain. Such unity is powerful. Such unity is also contagious. But unity in the church is not good when Christian brethren are unified in doing nothing.

How wonderful is unity! But unity is only wonderful when it is in harmony with God's will. It is not God's will that His people walk in error; it is not God's will that His people

complain rather than encourage; it is not God's will that His people keep the status quo of doing nothing when there is much work to be done. In such unity there is much confusion. That confusion is brought about by man, and that confusion will cause the church to fail and souls to be lost.

The Shredded Suitcase

As the airport carousel begins to churn out the suitcases, there is always that moment of fear. Did your bags make it? Will they come out? Will something be broken?

Kristin Horabin and her husband were in this very boat. They watched as bag after bag came out, including her husbands. When Kristin's never showed itself, they walked over to baggage claim office. "Oh, maybe that's your bag over here," said the worker. The worker went back and brought up a big plastic bin that held a shredded up bag with a bunch of loose, miscellaneous items. It was Kristin's bag.

The Horabin's filed a claim to American Airlines. Within 24 hours, they received a sincere apology, a check for \$3,500, as well as a \$300 travel voucher. American resolved the conflict with the Horabin's and is currently investigating what happened to the bag. Despite all the damage that occurred, at least one thing is good, American Airlines worked quickly and diligently to make it right ([Fox News](#)).

We all make mistakes. We say things we shouldn't have. We do things that aren't right. We participate in things we had no business being apart in. What we do after the mistake is what really makes the difference.

When Cain sinned, he tried to hide it, only making things worse for himself (Genesis 4). When David sinned and was confronted, he immediately took the blame, repented, and accepted the consequences (2 Samuel 11-12). When Judas sinned against Christ, he ran from his problems, denying himself the forgiveness Christ would have given him, and made things eternally worse by committing suicide (Matthew 27:1-10). When Peter sinned against the Christ, he came back to the Lord and made things right (John 20:3-10; 21:15-19).

Facing up with our mistakes is rarely a pleasant experience at the start. In the end, though, it clears the conscience, gives a sense of relief, and eventually smooths out. We will wrong people. When we do, let's quickly make it right.

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of June 9, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobs

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobs
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: Sammy Scherffius, Kirk FitzSimmons, Manny Flonnory

Sunday Evening: Mark FitzSimmons, Doug Jobs

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Pat Gooch
P.M. Closing: Ron White

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Mark FitzSimmons

Open/Close Building: Randles

Sound System: Scott DeDear

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Randles

Tough stuff happens. It can place a rather dark cloud over the day. When it comes, here is a helpful reminder:

Remember To Pray. Chances are pretty good you're going to call up a spouse or Mom and Dad to tell them what happened. Don't forget your heavenly Father. Cast those anxieties upon Him (1 Peter 5:7). Tell Him all about your sorrows. He wants to hear from us.

-Selected-

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Campers that are away at Camp Hensel this week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 12: Adult Summer Series:- Mark FitzSimmons
June 19: Adult Summer Series:- Ronnie Scherffius
June 26: Adult Summer Series-Matt Gibson
June 29: Men's Breakfast @ 8am at the building
June 29: Jr./Sr. High Devo at Yvonne Smith's 6:30 pm -8:00 pm at River Place, Thomaston
July 11: MidTown hosts Area Summer Youth Series

AREA EVENTS

June 9: Camp Hensel begins
June 23-28: Servants Academy @ Southwest
July 21-26: Peach Valley Youth Camp

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Helen Cannady (10); Jeff Harris (14)

Happy Anniversary: Wayne & Janie Martin (10); Michael & Shirley Page (14)

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of June 2, 2019

Bible Class.....89
A.M. Worship.....119
P.M. Worship.....100
Wednesday Bible Study.....96

Offering \$4,063

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

Each week will focus on reading a portion of the New Testament, each reading will only take 30 minutes:

John 1—John 6



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

GO PAPERLESS!

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MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
(361) 573-0030
midtowncoc2017@gmail.com

