

- Together
- Motivation
- Submission

1. Being Together – is it nigh impossible?

Genesis 11:1 – 11

The key verse is God's response to the building of the tower in Genesis 11:6

The LORD said, if as **one people speaking the same language** they have begun to do this, then **nothing** they plan to do **will be impossible** for them.

This is such an important verse. **One people, one language, nothing therefore will be impossible to them.**

Unity in disobedience is as powerful as unity in obedience.

Jesus said if two agree or maybe three –he knew how incredibly difficult it is to get agreement and how powerful it is when you do.

Nehemiah 8: 1- 13 and see the context:

- All the people assembled as one man
- Everyone was there
- The leaders were in unity (standing beside Ezra)
- There was order
- Read the Word
- People listened attentively – that's takes effort
- People stood – a sign of respect and unity
- People responded in worship
- People responded in confession and repentance
- People took responsibility for their and their forefather's actions
- Then the joy of the LORD was their strength

Nehemiah 8:1, Ezra 3:1, Ezra 10:9, Ezra 6:21,
God loves individuals AND he loves unity, He loves 'together'

Jesus died for our sins – and we came to him as an individual and confessed, repented, were baptised into Him etc.

However, we are raised to newness of life not to be a sanctified individual but to become part of His body. **WE** are his bride, together. Be together with all the saints. See Ephesians 3:14 - 21

And 1 Peter 2:4 - 10

1 John 1:4-7 – 10 says 'us', 'we', and 'our' not 'me', 'I' and 'my'.

We often lack power, influence and effectiveness because we seek the gifts of God for ourselves, individually. We do have individual giftings, so harness and develop them. But we must operate within the framework of the body and be accountable,

1 Corinthians is clear about us being part of the body and needing one another. That fly's counter to the culture in which we live. Its not about **MY** rights, it's about loving our Father, loving and submitting to **His body** – its not easy, but its God's way.

Also by not using your gifting, the body misses out. Stepping out may make you feel vulnerable, but it will release you into God's gifting. This will bless the body. 1 Corinthians 14:26 When you come together, **ALL** have a hymn, revelation, tongue etc. Our old man is dead – newness of life in Jesus. Often the problem is that we haven't completely died!

2. Our Motivation - Always LOVE!!

The gifts only operate effectively through love. They are to build up, to strengthen, to edify, encourage. Relationships have to be worked out which is often not easy – but the reward is growing unity.

Love makes the receiving and giving correction easier.

As pride dies, the church grows

Jesus learnt obedience, yet He hadn't sinned. Hebrews 5:7 - 9

7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

3. Submission

1 Corinthians 14:31 – 32 See the context – they are prophesying within the body. It is vital that we submit our prophecies to leadership/prophets.

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

So to grow in unity we have an individual and corporate responsibility.

Is God challenging you to grow through submission? Maybe to join a Cell Group, help serve within the church, risk stepping out in the gifts?

- Let's be Together in heart attitude, because its all for Jesus
- To regularly check our Motivation within both church life and our personal lives.
- Let's willingly Submit to God and His delegated authorities

Cell Questions

- What is unity?
- What action can I take as an individual and for us as a Cell group to promote and be in unity?
- What is my motivation within the Body?
- Why did a perfect Saviour have to learn obedience? (Heb 5:7 - 9) and what does that mean to us both individually and as a body?

Cell Action

Re read Ephesians 3:14 – 21 and pray this scripture over one another (either at Cell or during next week)