

March 2018

From the Pastor



Where is Unity Found

Our country desires and craves unity. We have a great concern when we see government officials at odds with each other as well as when we see people fighting in our streets. Unfortunately, our society sees all sorts of division amongst our population.

I have great news! Unity can be found. There is a way for us to find unity in the midst of our differences. However, I don't think we as sinners can be unified without help. That help, that ability can only be supernatural.

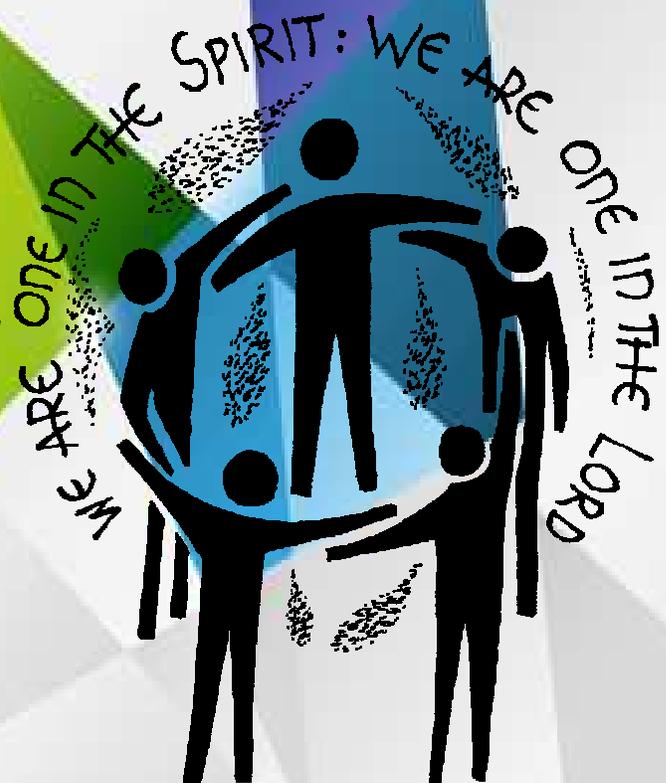
First, the best example of unity is God. The Bible describes God as one. Look at what the Bible tells us about God.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 ⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (ESV)

1 Corinthians 8:5-6 ⁵ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth-- as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"--⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. (ESV)

Second, we are commanded to be unified like God is. Again, here are some commands from the Bible.

Ephesians 4:1-6 ¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit -- just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-- ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (ESV)



There is another command for unity. This one has a very practical step to it.

Mark 12:29-31 ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.' ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (ESV)

A practical way to work out unity is to love one another, and the best way to show love is to treat others as you would want to be treated. Much disunity today would come to an end if we considered how badly we treat others.

The big questions are these, "How is it possible for us to be unified? How can we love each other when we don't even like each other?" The answer is found in prayer.

There was a prayer recorded by Jesus that He prayed shortly before He died. In this prayer He prayed for Himself, His disciples and for me and you. Right after praying for the disciples this is what Jesus prayed.

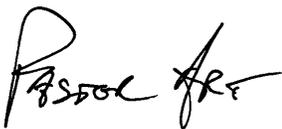
John 17:20-21 ²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (ESV)

Jesus prayed for our unity. I find that incredible! The only way we can truly be unified is with the help of God. Our country is in need of unity. The only possible way is through God. Here is a verse for us to remember in these times of disunity.

2 Chronicles 7:14 ...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (ESV)

Let us pray for unity. Let us also be the first in showing love for one another.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Joe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.