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2022: The Year of Christ Consciousness

How do I receive inward Peace?

Why Unity Should Matter to Christians
Presented by Pastor Daren L. Barron

Sermon Notes from December 11, 2022

Why Unity Should Matter to Christians

- ➤ I'm heartbroken that Christians aren't typically known for their love for one another. If you took a survey and asked 1,000 people, "What comes to mind when someone mentions a born-again Christian?" few would say "their love for one another."
- But that's what Jesus wants us to be known for. It's what he prayed for as he prepared to die on the cross for us.
- If it was so important to Jesus, I think it should be important to us.

How do I receive inward Peace? Why Unity Should Matter to Christians

Luke 12:48-53 Amplified Bible

48 but the one who did not know it and did things worthy of a beating, will receive only a few [lashes]. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more. 49 "I have come to cast fire (judgment) on the earth; and how I wish that it were already kindled! 50 I have a baptism [of great suffering] with which to be baptized, and how [greatly] I am distressed until it is accomplished! 51 Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division [between believers and unbelievers]; 52 for from now on five in one household will be divided [over Me], three against two and two against three. 53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law."

Why Unity Should Matter to Christians

- Our unity is our greatest witness to unbelievers (John 17:23).
- ➤ The world won't be won until Christians are one. If unbelievers like what they see in us, they will listen to what we say.
- Unity proves we're saved.

John 13:34-35 Amplified Bible

34 I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too are to love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love and unselfish concern for one another."

- ➤ You don't prove your salvation by having a Christian bumper sticker on your car. You prove it by how you love other believers.
- Unity removes fear and creates boldness (Acts 4:31).
- > A unified church gives all of us more power and courage. Division creates fear, but unity removes it.
- ➤ When a church is truly unified, everybody's needs are met (Acts 4:32).
- The early church proved that when all believers are "united in heart and mind" (Acts 4:32 NLT), people share what they have with others—and needs are met.
- Focusing on our common purpose creates unity.

1 Corinthians 1:10 Amplified Bible

10 But I urge you, believers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in full agreement in what you say, and that there be no divisions or factions among you, but that you be perfectly united in your way of thinking and in your judgment [about matters of the faith].

- ➤ Paul urges Christians not to be program-driven, pressure-driven, power-driven, pleasure-driven, or politically driven. Instead, he tells us to be purpose-driven. We're more united when we work together for a common purpose.
- ➤ Unity begins when we realize we're incomplete without each other (1 Corinthians 12:26-27).
- God wired us to need each other. No one has all the skills and talents. He uniquely shaped us to make a contribution in this world. Unity begins when we realize we're incomplete on our own.
- > Jesus died to unite us, not divide us.

Ephesians 2:16 Amplified Bible

16 And [that He] might reconcile them both [Jew and Gentile, united] in one body to God through the cross, thereby putting to death the hostility.

- ➤ You won't find a place for bigotry or preferred treatment at the foot of the cross. When Jesus reconciled us, he brought us all together, ending our hostility toward one another.
- Jesus expects me to work hard at unifying Christians.

Ephesians 4:3 Amplified Bible

3 Make every effort to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the bond of peace [each individual working together to make the whole successful].

- ➤ God's Word directly tells us to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit" (Ephesians 4:3 NIV). One day we'll stand before God, and he'll ask us if we made "every effort" to unite with other believers.
- > Jesus expects me to work hard at unifying Christians.

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