

ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHRISTIAN

Today's Message: "Standing Firm Together"

Ephesians 4:1-3 / Pastor Cory Anderson / SMC / 08.16.09

INTRODUCTION:

EPHESIANS 4:1-3: "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

IMPLICATION: *Unity comes at a price – it takes effort.*

WHY IS UNITY SO IMPORTANT?

1. Our _____ to the world is at stake.

JOHN 17:20-23: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

JOHN 13:34-35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

2. Our ability to _____ together against opposition is at stake.

PHILIPPIANS 1:27-28: "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you..."

4 Keys For Keeping Unity

**KEY #1: Unity requires _____
not _____.**

JAMES 4:1-3: "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You want something but

don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

PHILIPPIANS 2:3: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit..."

**KEY #2: Unity requires _____
not _____.**

EPHESIANS 4:2: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

KEY QUESTION: *What is humility?*

Definition of humility: *A proper view of yourself in relation to God and others.*

JOHN 3:30: "He must become greater; I must become less."

**KEY #3: Unity requires _____
not _____.**

ROMANS 14:1-6: "Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. ² One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵ One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God."

**KEY #4: Unity requires a focus on the
_____, not _____.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2: "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."

Final Thoughts

Unity in the Church is worth fighting for!