

JANUARY 9, 2024 TUESDAY - DAY 2

PRAY THAT WE WOULD BE OF THE SAME MIND WITH ONE ANOTHER

ROMANS 15:5

"Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name..."

Can you hear the theme song from the once popular television show Cheers? Unfortunately, it is about a bar, not a church. The truth is that everyone wants to be agreed with and accepted. A casual study of church history reveals one of Satan's best methods for destroying the church namely, destroying the unity among believers. He is skilled at creating confusion, insensitivity, and division. The best weapon against this is "like mindedness."

AN ATTITUDE OF UNITY

"Like mindedness" is an interesting biblical concept. The Greek word means "to think the same thing; untied." It does not mean that everybody ought to be of the same opinion about everything, all of the time. Someone has well said, "If we both agree on everything, one of us is unnecessary."

The word here for "mind" is not the usual Greek word "nous," but the word "phane." The term originally referred to one's midsection. Perhaps the Greeks once thought that thinking was done with the stomach. Eventually, however, the phrase came to mean one's intellect, especially one's attitude. Have you ever noticed how critical rhyme is? Do you remember this nursery rhyme?

"Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been? I've been to London to visit the Queen! Pussy cat, pussy cat, what saw you there? I saw a little mouse under her chair?"

The tower of London, Big Ben, the Crown Jewels, and all that cat noticed was a rodent under the throne? Our attitude determines our outlook.

When God calls us to like mindedness, the call is not for complete and perfect unanimity. Nor does God require total uniformity. The God who created every snowflake to be unique does not demand that all children look and act the same. God loves variety! Nor does like mindedness mean ecclesiastical union. Mark Twain once put two cats into a bag and hung it from a clothesline. There was union in that bag, but don't mistake the screeching for unity. No, like mindedness is a unity in spirit and essential purpose. We can differ on music styles, times of worship, evangelistic methods, economic status, political values, and even some doctrines. But our ultimate purpose is "to glorify and enjoy God forever." In the high priestly prayer of Jesus, He prayed for unity. "Holy Father, keep through your name those whom you have given me, that they may be one as we are one." Then Jesus prayed for the unity of all future believer. "I do not pray for these alone but also for those who will believe in me... that they may all be one" (John 17:11 - 23).



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PAUL SHARED THIS PLEA FOR LIKE MINDEDNESS WITH OTHERS AS WELL:

- To Rome - "Be of the same mind toward one another" (Rom. 5:16)
- To Corinth - "I plead with you... that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement" (1 Cor. 1:10).
- To Ephesus - "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).
- To Philippi - "Stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the Gospel" (Phil. 1:27).
- To Philippi - "Fulfill my job by being like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind" (Phil. 2:2).

THE CONCEPT IS LIKEWISE DEMONSTRATED IN THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM:

- "Day by day, continuing with one mind" (Acts 2:46).
- Because of their "unity" they enjoyed "the favor of all the people" and "the Lord added to their number" (Acts 2:47).
- Widows were being neglected in the distribution of food, but when unity was restored, "the word of God spread and the number of disciples increased rapidly" (Acts 6:7).

The tower of London, Big Ben, the Crown Jewels, and all that cat noticed was a rodent under The world will never believe, to any great extent, that Jesus is the Christ so long as his followers are divided in spirit and publicly wrangling with one another. Any plan for world evangelism that does not take into consideration interdenominational cooperation is doomed to fail.

No question is more difficult to answer, nor asked more frequently in witnessing that the non Christian asking about the disunity among Christians. When we foster disunity, we are shooting the body in the foot. Pray that we would be of the same mind with one another.

ROMANS 15:5

Now may the God of patience And consolation grant you To be like minded toward one another, According to Christ Jesus...

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

1. Pray that God will reveal to you and the members of your church the true non negotiables of the faith that we have in common with one another.
2. Pray that God will unite the hearts of the people in your church with a common love for Christ and desire to see him glorified, and that other differences might be laid aside for that purpose.
3. Think of the people in your church who are most different in looks, tastes, customs, and preferences and thank God that he has brought them into fellowship with you.
4. Pray for another churches and denominations that God would bless and prosper them and be glorified thereby. Pray for their Pastors by name.

Accepting one another doesn't Stop once we've shaken hands During the "Welcome Time" in Sunday morning worship