

City Church Network - Tuesday Fellowship

August 27, 2019

“Unity #3: The Beauty of Unity”

facilitated by Wim Codington (cell: 423.505.6411; email: wimcodington@gmail.com)

Bible passages examined:

- Romans 12:3-13
- I Corinthians 12:4-7; 12:24b-31
- John 13:34-35
- 1 John 3:1; 3:10-11; 4:7; 4:11; 4:18-21
- 2 John 7-12
- 3 John 5-8; 11; 13-14

Thoughts and ideas shared after reading the passages above:

- *Review Unity Week 1:*
 - Oneness of God; Christ as foundation for unity
- *Review Unity Week 2:*
 - Necessity of a vision for unity in missions
 - Existence of absolute truth; difficulty of coming to agreement
 - Differences in seeing; prevalence of blind spots; necessity of humility
 - Unity Principle: Emphasize explicit teaching of the New Testament as a guide for decision-making and conflict resolution
- *Beauty of Unity*
 - An intellectual agreement with the Bible’s teaching about unity will not carry you through your relational conflicts and spiritual battlefields.
 - You must fall in love with the vision for unity. You must be captivated by the beauty of the unity of the body of Christ as a reflection of the beauty of Jesus Himself.
 - Romans 12 passage
 - Humble and practical vision for unity
 - Diversity is part of beauty.
 - The body of Christ is a single organism.
 - It is important to have an awareness of our gifts and roles.
 - Our gifts are given to us for the benefit of others; we are stronger together.
 - LOVE in action



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- *Beauty of Unity (continued)*
 - I Corinthians 12 passage
 - Heartfelt appeal to live and act as a single living organism
 - The same Spirit gives a variety of gifts.
 - The Spirit unifies the body.
 - God empowers all of the gifts.
 - We are different puzzle pieces in the same unified puzzle presenting a single picture.
 - We feel the same things together.
 - We have equal care for one another; the same love enables different expressions of love.
 - You *are* the body (present reality).
 - The gifts are ordered, reflecting the chronological trend we see in missions (I Corinthians 12:28); apostles go first, then prophets, then teachers. This is the pattern we see in missions.
 - What are the higher gifts? Prophecy?
 - John 13 passage
 - They will know not by our words, not by our deeds toward outsiders, but by our deeds *toward one another*.
 - God’s love is the basis for unity and the starting point.
 - 1 John passages
 - Soaring appeal to understand the foundation of the love ethic; what is at stake when we love or don’t love one another
 - God is love.
 - Our love for one another authenticates our verbal expression of love for God.
 - It is critical to seek unity, clarity, and agreement in our relationships with one another.
 - 2 John passage
 - Foundation of truth enables unity
 - Foundation of the central truth of Christ for unity
 - 3 John passage
 - Expression of love authenticates unity
 - Foundation of love / support for one another *even* not knowing each other

