Unity In Our Differences

Greg Kline · Galatians 3:25–29

INTRODUCTION

- Unity is important. Unity is called on by Jesus, by the apostles.
- The question this morning is, how do we find that unity?

1 Matthew and Simon Worked Together

Matthew 10:1–4; Luke 6

- Matthew was a tax collector. That means in the first century world, he was essentially working for whom? The Romans.
- A zealot was essentially a terrorist of sorts.
- So here is Matthew, the Roman tax collector. And here is Simon, somebody willing to cause bodily harm and destruction in society to those types of people.
- Do you think that might have been a little bit of a combustible situation? But they are able to work together.

2 In Christ There Is Zero Division

Galatians 3:25–29

- Paul had to deal with the fact that there is no division in Christ, and yet people sometimes act like it.
- For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- There is neither Jew nor Greek. There is neither slave nor free. There is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- In Christ, there is zero division. Of course, division is the opposite of unity.

3 We're Tribal People

1 John 2:2; 1 Corinthians 1:10–17

- 1 John 2 says Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. But do we act like that? Sometimes we don't. Because we're tribal people.
- That all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same judgment.
- If Christians can be divided over who baptized us, or who the best teacher is, or what type of leader we should follow, don't you think we can be divided on even deeper issues?
- They followed Jesus because Jesus was a higher priority than their petty worldly squabbles.

4 A Christian First, Who Happened to Be a Jew

Galatians 2:11–13; 1 Peter 5:8–10

- Before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles, but when they came, he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.
- Peter was a Jew, but he was a Christian first, who happened to be a Jew. Rather than a Jew who happened to be a Christian.
- Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- All he has to do is make me think about my people instead of Christ's people. And then he's won.

5 Count Others More Significant Than Yourselves

Philippians 2:1–8

- Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit. But in humility. Count others more significant than yourselves.
- Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- You can be blunt without being rude. You can teach truth without being harsh.
- You deal with error. But you do it through love and humility.

6 Thank God Every Day for Being His Child

1 John 3:1–2; 2 Timothy 2

- See what kind of love the Father has given to us that we should be called children of God. And so we are.
- Which team are we on? We're in the body of Christ.
- I first of all have to remember who am I as a child of God? A sinner who was forgiven.
- It's a check against my pride. It's a reminder of my humility, that I can't do it by myself, but that God can.

THE CHALLENGE

When Jesus says, you follow me, what do we do? You go. That's it.

MY NOTES