



## Breaking the Barrier of Disunity

### Intro

- Good evening everyone.
- I am so looking forward to sharing with you all tonight
- We are continuing with our Breaking Barriers series
- If you are joining us for the first time, over the last couple of weeks we have been looking at breaking certain barriers in our lives.
- You can see the wall developing behind me.
- If you have been tracking with us over the last couple of weeks, I pray that you have really found that God has been working in you to break Barriers in your life.
- Tonight we are going to look at the barrier of disunity.
- If we look for unity in this world today, we it is hard to find.
- Even the Church has sometimes failed in painting a picture of unity.
- We sometimes cant even agree within ourselves on certain things.
- When the world looks in at this sometimes dysfunctional family of ours, its no wonder they want to turn away and look to other things.
- What are we doing? Are we not called to offer something different.
- Life in a barren land! Love to the judged and forgotten, provision to the needy.

- Instead we barely find schedule in our own lives to squeeze God in, yet our fellow brothers and sisters.
- We are so consumed by our worldly lives, the power of God is neutralised, not because God cannot, but he refuses to work and move, when we try to become Gods of our own lives.
- Then even in the Church we see a bunch of self-seeking, paralysed people, without an anchor, caught in a cycle of habitual sin, consumed with anxiety and depression. Why?
- Well, we are consumed with self, pride, religion. All of which breeds the spirit of disunity.
- Where there is disunity The spirit of God will not move. Where there is division God will not speak. He despises it. The spirit of disunity is so prevalent. Him and his friends, pride, rebellion and religion love working together. Unfortunately they are causing chaos in the Church today.
- Obviously through breaking this barrier we want to seek Unity.
- The big questions what is Unity? Is it something we understand today.
- The truth is, we all seek it.
- We seek it in our families, we long for intimate loving relationships.
- We seek it with our girlfriends and boyfriends
- Our husbands and wives
- In our work place
- With our sports team.
- We all look for it, we might call it something different, like team spirit.
- But we all long for Unity.
- Firstly however there are a couple of misconceptions of Unity:
  - Unity does not mean that we are all the same
  - Unity doesn't mean that we all agree
  - Unity doesn't mean that there is no conflict
- Diversity is amazing, Conflict sometimes healthy. Its all how we grow together, learning to love one another despite our differences.
- God seeks unity with his people and wants it between us too.
- One of the most powerful prayers Jesus ever prayed is found in John 17:
 

**20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.**
- What a powerful prayer. You see Jesus died for Unity. There is no Church without unity. Instead, without unity, we will just have a bunch of self-seeking clubs, that will amount to

nothing.

- You will also notice in the last part of that verse, that Jesus says that they might also be in us, so the world will believe you sent me. Unity is not just about you and me, it reflects something to the rest of the world.
- So tonight I want to share 2 principles of Unity, that I believe God wants to share with you.

## 1. The Principle of The Spirit

- There is only one head of the Church, and He is in all of us!
- **Ephesian 4: For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. 5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.**
- The bible teaches that the Church is like a body. With Jesus as the head. **Vs 4**
- If we go with analogy and we look at how the body functions.
- If someone has had an organ transplant, there is a very high chance that the body might reject the new organ from a different body.
- When that happens the whole body begins to shut down. It doesn't just affect that part of the body.
- In the same way if the body does not obey the commands from the brain, we also have a big problem. We die.
- In the same way, when there is division in the Church, and disunity it affects the entire body! It cannot function as it should.
- If we move on from that and we look at the principle of Jesus being the head of the body or Church, we can then say that in fact, disunity comes from not having Jesus positioned correctly, as the Head of The body. **Vs 5**
- If we zoom in further, we can say that Disunity comes from not have Jesus as the head of your life.
- **Unity comes from having Jesus positioned correctly in your life, submitting to His authority.**
- When we submit to his authority, we find that the agenda of our hearts, our lives become aligned with His purpose.
- Disunity goes directly against the will of God and his plan for the Church. If we are living in disunity we are not operating in the will of God.
- We also see that there is one spirit, and that spirit is in all of us.

**Colossians 1:27 describes it: For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.**

- The spirit of God lives in all of us, that is the mystery, when we come to know Jesus, we become one with Him in spirit.
- **So unity comes from recognising that the spirit of Christ in me, is the same spirit in you.**
- Here we see that there is something completely different that binds us together.
- It goes beyond looks, interests, hobbies, whether we like this preacher or that preacher, or this style of service or that style of service
- If we have Jesus at the head, and we recognise that all who know Jesus have the same spirit within them, then there is something that binds us together, that cannot separate us. It goes so much deeper.
- Disunity comes when we fail to see Jesus in others around us.
- There is a verse in Matthew 25, Where Jesus is talks about final Judgement :

**37“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? 39When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’**

**40“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters,25:40 Greek my brothers. you were doing it to me!’**

- Often we view the least of these in this verse as lost people, but this is not what Jesus is talking about here, He does not consider lost people brothers, Instead what He is saying, is When you love one of the least of the body of Christ, you in fact are doing it to me. Why? The Jesus in you, is the same Jesus in other believers. The man who sits at the robots, who loves Jesus. The old lady in the back of the Church, who loves Jesus. Smelly drug addict you pitches up outside your house asking for money, but He loves Jesus. They are the least of These.
- Jesus calls us to live in Unity with one another. How do we do this:
- When we become Christians do we squeeze tight and pray that we will begin to live in Unity. I don't think so:

**1John 4:7Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.**

- Love comes from God, it can only come from Him. We within ourselves do not have the capacity to love fully. If we did, we would know God from the beginning of time and would not have needed Jesus to give His life for us.
- Love comes only from knowing God. Paul goes onto say in Galatians that when we know God the spirit works in us to produce all kinds of good fruit - The Fruit of the Spirit.
- Sometimes we offer cheap imitations of the real thing, and God is not really interested in the cheap offerings we can offer Him.
- There are stories of how cheap offerings have been brought to God and he consumed them with fire and killed the people that offered them to him because there were not genuine - read

Leviticus 10: 1- 2

- No, true unity comes from The Holy spirit working within us.
- The enemy hates unity, and he knows that if he can cause division we will be completely ineffective!
- If we stay close to Him, he will protect us. Paul speaks of us daily putting on the amour of God in Ephesians 6.
- SO you thinking now, okay so stuart mentioned the Spirit now, so I get to sit back and relax and just wait for God to produce these things in me.
- NO. The second and last principle for tonight.

## 2. The Principle of Responsibility

- There is no verse in the bible that says that any decision you make has no consequences.
- To the contrary in fact, Jesus came do die for a very consequence of a decision made many years ago.
- An action always has a consequence.
- So when approaching this particular topic, and saying that The spirit of Christ working within us, does not mean we can go off and just do whatever we want. You might think Duh!
- But so often we hear the message of cheap Grace, where we sit and do nothing, and just wait for God to do it all.
- That is not what God calls us to.
- **We have a responsibility to watch over our brothers relationship with God, and He has responsibility in watching over mine.**
- A part of this whole process is realising we have a part to play in all of this. Galatians 6 says this:  
**1Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer6:1a Greek Brothers, if a man. is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. 2Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. 3If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.**
- We are called to look out for one another. To carry each others burdens, to call out in love the sin of others.
- Church was never meant to be a place for well people, who pretend to have everything together.
- No, it is a place to be authentic, true. To be able to openly declare that we are struggling.
- But we all come in with nice smiles and we pretend to love one another.
- I believe there are some things we need in place in order to achieve looking out for one another.

1. We need accountability:  
Yes it is uncomfortable, it requires vulnerability. Without it, we will all sink. We know there are things in our lives that we are struggling with, that we are not coping, but we keep it to ourselves because we are afraid of judgement, or what it will mean to have a person keep us accountable.
2. Confession: James is clear, we should confess our sins to one another, to find healing. There is something amazing about finding freedom in confessing to someone what you have been struggling with. We all need it. (Mention witness thing)
3. Repentance: We all need to walk away from what we have been thinking, how we have been living. God calls us to something better . repentance is the greatest gift given to us. It gives us the opportunity to return to what God has for us.
4. Forgiveness: One of the biggest factors in disunity is the issue of unforgiveness . We are taught in this world that we have a right to be angry, to take revenge. But we are called to forgive just as Christ has forgiven us.

And so, how is King of Kings doing with Unity. I know there are many areas personally where I have to work on things.

Tonight we need to respond - **lead by the Spirit**