

Deacon's Lesson and Prayer Theme
February 2021

Unity and One Accord for Kingdom Purposes (1 Cor. 1:10)

"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there are no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind in the same judgment (1 Cor. 1:10). NKJV

Amid a worldwide Covid-19 health crisis, there is political, social, and civil unrest creating great division in our land. Our government has been consistently divided on which direction the country should proceed on several issues. Likewise, the church has had its share of division on a smaller scale. However, our local church ought to be different: we have the Love of God and the Word of God as our guiding compass of principles, values, and standard of behavior. How important it is that we first know and believe the sound and true doctrine of God's Word. After gaining some understanding, it is our duty to commit to working and gathering on one accord as a unified body.

We should not eliminate diversity, but instead have unity of all parts like a quilt with various colors and patterns, blended beautifully together as a whole. (Bible Knowledge Commentary). Even in the midst of diversity, **having single-minded Christian purposes, agreement on essentials of the faith and the gospel, and harmony in relationships and attitudes** would **allow us to be more perfectly joined together** to benefit the church and please God. (1 Cor. 1:10)

In 1 Corinthians 1:10, Paul writes to correct the disunity that occurs when the disciples identify their ministry purpose through one of the prominent Christian leaders (Paul, Apollos, or Cephas, 1 Cor. 1:12) instead of Christ. Paul leaves no doubt as to the one he believed should be the focus of Corinthian unity. That is Jesus Christ. We, too, must fully fix and center our focus on Christ. We cannot go wrong in Him.

Paul pleaded for an outward expression that comes from an inward committed spirit. He encouraged the Corinthians to speak the same thing and allow for "*no divisions among you*", and **be perfectly joined together**. There is a difference between having opposing viewpoints and being divisive. Believers can work together harmoniously if they **agree on what truly matters** - Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

In the book of Acts, the early church gathered together in the upper room tarrying as Jesus instructed. **They continued with one accord in prayer and supplication** after the ascension of Jesus. United with one mind and purpose devoted to prayer, God sent the Holy Spirit as promised. (Acts 1:14; 2:1-21) **February's centennial prayer focus for Tabernacle is that we will be in unity and on one accord for kingdom purposes.**

What are some kingdom purposes? Our church mission statement is a very good example. It is listed as follows: **Exalt** the Savior through worship and prayer. **Expound** the scriptures through biblical preaching and teaching. **Embrace** the saved through membership and fellowship. **Evangelize** the sinner through the sharing of the good news empowered by the Holy Spirit. **Encourage** the struggling through ministry for the whole family. **Equip** the saints through Christian education and discipleship for the work of the ministry.

Prayer:

Father God, please help the members of our church to talk and behave in such a way that will reduce arguments and divisions, while increasing harmony and fellowship. Knit us together in love. Create in us the unity of purpose as guided by the Spirit of God which advances the Kingdom of Our God and Christ. Hear our prayer. Amen.