

Celebration Gathering

*Keeping the Unity of
the Spirit*

January 28, 2012

Looking Ahead to 2012

Kingdom advancement will be built on UNITY.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Eph 4:3

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity...For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. Ps 133:1; 3

Satan's Counter-Attack

Divide the Church

Paul's Instructions on Maintaining Unity:

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Eph 4:2

No Unity Without Humility

Four Traps of Spiritual Pride

1. Pride of Alliance

My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

1 Cor. 1:11-12

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly ...For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

1 Cor 3:1-8

Pride of Knowledge

*Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. **Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.** The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. But the man who loves God is known by God.*

1 Cor 8:1-3

Pride of Experience

2 Cor 12:2-10

*I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. I will boast about a man like that...**But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say.***

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Pride of Accomplishments

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

1 Cor. 12:4-6

Trap Between Churches



Our Wineskin is Better than Your Wineskin...

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Eph 4:1-6

Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank you for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ to redeem mankind. I thank you that, Through Christ's sufferings, He purchased a threefold redemption for my spirit, soul and body.

Tonight I ask You to bless this bread that represents the body of Christ. Bless the fruit of the vine that represents the precious blood of Christ.

Father, as You have forgiven me, so I forgive those who have sinned against me. Lord, I forgive and release anyone who has wronged me and I ask You to search my spirit and remove any trace of sin or disobedience from my life. I release from my mental prison anyone who has hurt me in any way and I ask you to bless them and help them spiritually.

Father, as I receive this Communion, I ask you to bring strength and health to me spiritually, emotionally and physically because of the New Covenant that was sealed through the sufferings of Christ.

Father, Jesus carried my infirmities: therefore, I ask You to lift from me what Jesus has carried for me. I receive it by faith and I give You all the glory and honor, in the name of Jesus Christ.