

Unity

Troubling The Darkness - Week 10 (9-7-22)

Unity = The quality or state of not being multiple - Oneness

= A condition of harmony - Accord

I. United Diversity

A. Tony Evans - Unity isn't necessarily all identical, but all moving towards the same goal.

1. Our common goal is Christ

a) Eph. 4:11-13

2. Eph. 4:14-16

a) As we grow in unity and in knowledge of Christ we become more stable.

(1) This is why unity and maturity is so devastating to the enemy.

(2) As we continue to come to the unity of the faith and knowledge of Christ we can more effectively speak the truth in love as a whole body.

3. We can more effective because of how diverse God has designed the body to be.

a) Football team

b) Diversity and uniqueness all over creation

c) 1 Corin. 12:12-31

(1) In the same way that the physical body is diverse, so then the spiritual body of Christ is also. different purposes and assignments all put together for the same goal (the edifying of the body of Christ). The goal is to grow up into the perfect (mature) body/bride of Christ.

(2) God knows how the enemy operates, and has fully equip the body of Christ with all of the right "players" with all the right skillsets to be effective in this world.

(3) We all need to learn to play our own "zone", and allow everyone else to do the same.

(a) Worship Team

d) Eccl. 4:12 - "...a threefold chord is not quickly broken."

(1) three individual chords braided together for the same purpose.

B. our culture wants to diversify things just to be able to say that they are diverse. Diversity can be very powerful, but if you're trying to diversify something just for the sake of having diversity, it won't work.

1. You're basically just creating an environment for people to express their division, and this will cause problems. (creating more division)

a) But if you can communicate and convince all of that diversity of a common goal, it does work powerfully

II. Marriage

A. Eph. 5:22-33

B. Our society has dumbed down marriage to only a romantic/physical relationship, but it is much more than that.

1. Marriage is a legally binding relationship recognized both by man as well as God.
 - a) It is a covenant relationship that God set up
 - (1) Gen. 2:18
 - (a) help meet = helper comparable to him.
 - (2) It's a covenant relationship that is representative of the covenant relationship that we have with God through Jesus Christ. We are one flesh with Christ just as we are one flesh with our spouse.
 - (3) Eph. 5:23-25
 2. The authority of self has completely devastated the original design for marriage.
 - a) Staying committed to a marriage relationship or any relationship is an incredibly humbling experience.
 - b) Like Jesus, we are to be selfless, and willing to sacrifice ourselves for others.
 - (1) You can't give out of an empty vessel but we can be so caught in self care that we get fat and lazy. Or develop a victimized mindset, like we deserve to be spiritually lazy.
 - (a) many times I can be more worn out from doing nothing than I get from physical labor. The same could be true spiritually.
- C. A healthy marriage (or any relationship) requires maturity.
1. Maturity that: maintains trust and integrity, forgives, takes personal responsibility (thoughts, feelings, and behaviors), strives to effectively communicate, etc.

Eph. 4:1-7 - Endeavor to Keep the unity of the Spirit!