

# COME TOGETHER – Week #1

## February 7, 2021



Micah 6:8 (NLT) - *No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to **do what is right**, to **love mercy**, and to **walk humbly with your God**.*

1 Corinthians 12 - Paul described in detail the church as the body of Christ...

- The foot, the hand, the eye the ear
- And he talks about the individual functions of each
- v. 26 - *If one part suffers, every part suffers with it...*

Romans 12:15 (NIV) - Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

**3 Difficult and Unprecedented Circumstances Over the Past Year That Have Caused Division:**

- (1) Covid

- (2) Racism
- (3) Politics/Election

**What We're NOT Saying :**

- (1) NOT talking about taking sides
- (2) NOT saying that those who are struggling and oppressed are more important than others
  - The Parable of the Wandering Sheep - Matthew 18:10-14

Matthew 5:44 (NIV) - *But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*

(KJV) - *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*



(MSG) - *I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves.*

1 Peter 5:8 - *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy - the devil - prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

- We have an enemy, but it isn't who we often make it out to be
- Enough about that until next week...

## HOW CAN WE AS CHRIST'S CHURCH WORK TO BRING UNITY?

**FIRST - Recognize and admit when injustice exists.**

**SECOND thing we can do to bring unity – Listen.**

Some of the most powerful moments in life happen when we experience things outside of our comfort bubble

**THIRD thing we can do to bring unity - Pray.**

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT) - *Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray*

*and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. <sup>15</sup> My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place.*

John 17:20-21, 23 (NIV) - *My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

**FOURTH and last thing we can do to bring unity - Love.**

Love overtly, recklessly, boldly, generously, unconditionally, bravely - **ACTIVELY**

Prov 10:12 (NIV) - *Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.*

- Love covers sin
- Dispels anger
- Drives out fear
- Forgives
- Heals
- Unifies



**Do what's right - Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly.**

**SINNER'S PRAYER:**

God, I know I'm a sinner. I can't fix myself.  
But I believe you can. Come into my life.  
And make me new. I give myself to you.  
In Jesus' name, I pray.

**TAKE IT FURTHER:**

What has been your experience with Covid? Have you had any conflict with loved ones about how you or they "should be" acting during this time?

Have you ever experienced racism, sexism or any other form of prejudice? When was the last time you sat and listened to someone's story who had a very different background than you?

Do you find it difficult to pray for those who have hurt you or someone you love?

What do you think you can do to help be a source of unity in these difficult times?

**CHALLENGE:** Make it a point to pray daily this week for unity. Look for ways you can be a voice for others experiencing injustice. Walk humbly with God through this week seeking to act justly and love mercy.

