

COME TOGETHER – Week #2
United In Love <3
February 14, 2021



Matthew 16:18 (ESV) - *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Matthew 12:25 (NIV) – *Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.”*

John Wesley - In the dream, he was ushered to the gates of **HELL**. There he asked, "Are there any Presbyterians here?" "Yes!", came the answer. Then he asked, "Are there any Baptists? Any Episcopalians? Any Methodists?" The answer was Yes! each time. Much distressed, Wesley was then ushered to the gates of **HEAVEN**. There he asked the same question, and the answer was No! "No?" To this, Wesley asked,

"Who then is inside?" The answer came back, "There are only Christians here."

1 Cor 1:10 (ESV) - *I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be **no divisions among you**, but that you be **united in the same mind and the same judgment.***

Greek word for “divisions”:

- ***schisma*** (skhis'-mah); a split, a division, a schism
- a ripping or tearing apart.

Greek word for “united”:

- ***Kartartizo*** (kat-ar-tid'-zo); to complete thoroughly



What will unify the church?

ONE ENEMY

Galatians 5:15 (NIV) - *If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.*

An issue of *National Geographic* included a photograph of the fossil remains of two saber-tooth cats locked in combat. To quote the article: "One had bitten deep into the leg bone of the other, a thrust that trapped both in a common fate."

Eph 6:12 (NIV) - *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

John 10:10 (NIV) - *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

ONE MISSION

Matthew 28:19 (NIV) - *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

John 13:34-35 (NIV) - *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.***

John Wesley – "I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field."

Romans 15:5-7 (NIV) - *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with **one mind and one voice** you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ **Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you,** in order to bring praise to God.*

Greek word for "accept":

- **proslambano (pros-lam-ban'-o)**
- **Open your arms to take that person to yourself.**
- **Taking someone by the hand and walking together as companions.**

Romans 5:8 (NIV) - *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners,** Christ died for us.*

UNITED V. UNTIED

one letter makes a lot of difference!!



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:

Have you experienced being a part of a powerful faith community? One that can shake the gates of hell? What can we as Christ's Church do to build a community that has power like that?

Have you experienced disunity between Christian brothers and sisters? What do you believe motivated that? How do you believe loving as Jesus called us to in the Scriptures discussed today could have changed that situation?

What do you think is meant by "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you?" Why do you think we as Christians have trouble doing this?

What do you think you can do to help the church be UNITED right now rather than UNTIED?

CHALLENGE: Make it a point to pray daily this week for unity. Look for ways you can be a witness to others by reaching out and caring for others with the love of Jesus. Look for opportunities to share the good news of what He has done in your life with someone this week who may not know Jesus!

