

'Father, may they be One...' Jesus

ONENESS: Christ's prayer for us, God's mandate and our desire at Sun City Christian Centre.

We have a clear call to '**be ONE**' – not exactly alike; not uniformity but conformity (transformed in to the likeness of Christ); unity demands diversity (agreement though different).

Analogy: John Kilpatrick uses the illustration of the human body at cellular level. DNA determines/produces what a cell is designed to be and do.

- Healthy cells are created to work as part of a body (each cell does what it should)
- Dysfunctional cells (rebellious) have the same DNA but do whatever they want to (produces warts, moles, etc)
- Other cells (with different DNA) are cancerous – use energy all around and bring forth death

Often last words spoken are of the most importance. God cares about Oneness; it is His heartbeat; being one with Him for the purposes of the Kingdom. As believers we are born into a Kingdom of unity.

See Ephesians 2:8-14

Part of the good works we are to do are works of unity. How?

- Love one another John 13:35; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; John 17:20-23
- Pray

John Bunyan said: 'You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.'

We are entering a time in the life of the fellowship where we have not been before therefore 2010 will be a year of doing things differently. **Joshua 5**

One of the fortified cities the 'church' faces today worldwide is Oneness. The Oneness we speak of addresses standing united for Christ – this is a non-compromising stand; while we may disagree on some things we must agree on the things of Christ. Emotional and fleshly decisions will be challenged because they must be confronted; fighting for what is worth fighting for. (From Joshua 5, the flesh was cut). To return to the analogy of cells; a healthy body works together – love one another, inspire one another, correct one another, and use gift.

Be strong and very courageous to see this Oneness come to pass – through love and prayer.

REACHING OUT FOR ONE

Luke 15:1-7 Christ is imparting the culture of heaven through this parable. Some came near to hear and were saved (stirring heaven) and the religious were repulsed by Jesus' 'welcoming and eating with sinners'.

Christ was/is almost distracted by the 'one'. (Woman with the issue of blood, the man at the well, blind Bartimaeus, Zacheus, the demoniac at the other side of the lake, etc).

Every 'one' is important to Christ. John 3:16 .. whosoever believes.. (individual) Ephesians 5:25 .. He loved and gave His life for the Church (corporate).

Leaving the 99 for the 1 – great place of trust in the right standing of the 99 with sure foundations; 'finds' the one, carries it home (great process of care and effort) and rejoices; calls his friends, calls his neighbours – Heaven rejoices over the return of the one.

Hear His gentle voice in 'Father, may they be one'.. 'that the world will know'

Reach out for one.

JUST ONE:

Each of us are on an amazing journey; must hear His gentle voice and respond to His call.

Luke 15 moves through

- Finding one sheep out of an hundred
- Finding one coin out of ten
- One brother out of two

Consider the loving Shepherd who chases the one down.

Consider the effort that must go in until what is lost is found

Consider the love of the Father whose grace and mercy never end

Key issue is that we have a loving Father who desires that not one be lost.

This year, can we go after one? Bring one in?

Be so Christ-centred that it would be impossible to be self-centred?

We are re-created to win souls.

AS WE ARE ONE? John Wesley: find me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the triune God'.

The oneness of God is more easily caught than taught.

See John 17:11, 20-21. Christ's prayer before He went to Gethsemane and then on to the Cross was absolutely selfless (in the full knowledge of what the next few hour