



THE BATTLE PLAN FOR PRAYER – 1-13-21 THE MEANING OF THE CROSSHAIRS SYMBOL

CHAPTER 15: HORIZONTAL – UNITY versus DIVISION

Colossians 3:14 -- *And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

REFLECT: Genesis 11:1-9 The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:6 *"The LORD said, 'If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible.'"*

SO --- imagine how powerful UNITY can be for people who worship & obey GOD – IF THEY SEEK GOD AND ACT IN UNITY EVERYTHING is possible – NOTHING CAN STOP THEM

KEY: This is why the 'enemy' does everything possible to keep God's people divided

UNITED PRAYER IS POWERFUL!!!!

- * So important to remove bitterness, pride and selfishness
- * Remember sin is ANYTHING that separates us from God, ourselves or others

JOHN 17 – JESUS PRAYS in the GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Verse 20-21 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **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."

GOD LOVES & BLESSES UNITY!!!

Acts 2:43 – people felt a sense of awe as they witnessed the UNITY of the early church.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH COMMUNICATE WHEN WE REMAIN DIVIDED?

IS GOD DIVIDED?

Ephesians 4:1-3 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you **to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.** ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one

another in love. ³ **Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.**

WHAT & HOW CAN WE KEEP THE “UNITY OF THE SPIRIT?”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Page 99 “GOD’s blessings fall when believers dwell together in UNITY. God moves when we rid our hearts of ANY SIN that holds us back and SEEK HIS FACE TOGETHER.”

READ & DISCUSS:

Mark 11:24-26

1 John 4:20-21

Romans 12:18

SO --- PRAYING FOR UNITY IS A POWERFUL WEAPON AGAINST THE ENEMY!!

HOW TO APPLY?

WORKING WITH OTHER CHURCHES?

CHURCHES PRAYING --- FOR ONE ANOTHER?

PRAY FOR IT!! FIGHT FOR IT!!!

DISCUSS WAYS TO REFUSE TO BE DIVIDED?

READ AND CLAIM JEREMIAH 33:3

Dear God, We’ve seen the kind of damage and destruction that can result from being in conflict with others ... especially fellow believers. We’ve felt the hypocrisy of it all. We keep seeing the same names and faces when we are CONVICTED about people we struggle to get along with ... God – it’s hindering me in my prayer life and my freedom --- AND IT IS BINDING SHUMC ... PLEASE HELP US TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS NECESSARY TO BEING HEALING TO ANY BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS, and to desire UNITY with EVERYONE who claims the name of Christ ... SO THAT TOGETHER WE CAN WORK FOR YOUR KINGDOM COME AND THE GLORY OF YOUR NAME.

IS SHUMC “UNITED?”

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WOULD THIS GROUP DO?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE MEAN WHEN IT SAYS THAT WE SHOULD PRAY IN AGREEMENT?