

Sermon Notes
Hearing God
Week 8

What's up! I'm glad that you're checking out this week's sermon notes. Welcome!

The heart of this week's sermon focused around understanding that God calls us to also hear Him through community and not just as individuals. I will always pray that we are all developing deep, deep private lives with God, however, maturing in our pursuit of Jesus always leads us towards realizing that He's set this up to also be done together. I'm not sure I would trust too many believers who feel as though they have a lone wolf calling in life because I don't see Scripture leading us away from sharing our lives together. God points us towards the Church, not away from it.

In order to establish this big idea, I preached out of John 17 (which is called Jesus' High Priestly Prayer). We saw that this prayer takes place right before Jesus is taken and killed. In this prayer, Jesus asks for two main things...

1. Jesus asked the Father to Glorify Him→ While Glorify means A WHOLE LOT (more than we could ever cover here), at the most fundamental level Jesus is asking the Father to acknowledge him and the sacrifice that he was about to make.
2. Jesus asks the Father to keep both his current and future disciples "in his name" and to keep them One. He asks the Father to keep his disciples in unity, oneness, "perfectly one" (John 17:23).
 - a. Unity in the church is now one of the clearest signs to see if a church is listening to God. God's word calls us towards true Unity. Real Unity is only found in the Church and it is not something that the world has.

To continue to lay out the importance of pursuing this unity and to shed some light on what the Bible calls us to do, I (& Logos Bible Software→ Factbook on Unity) put together a pretty comprehensive list of passages along the theme of Unity As God's People. Go through this list and read through it. Go to the passages and investigate the life that God is calling you to live for yourself. I intentionally did not put the passages in this document because I want you to use your Bible and read the surrounding context. If you are hungry for community, you'll investigate this for yourself. If you are not hungry you won't and I promise you that you'll be missing out on a fuller life that God has for you because you are not rooted in the unity of the Church. Investigate and let me know if you would like to talk about any of these passages! Please Go and Check it Out!

Unity as God's people...

- is a distinguishing characteristic of God's people, which derives from their common relationship with God, and is expressed in commitment to one another, mutual concern, concerted action and harmony within the believing community. Living in unity with God's people includes the following...
 - Unity In A Common Relationship With God
 - As Children of God

- Malachi 2:10
 - As The People Of God
 - 1 Peter 2:9-10
- Unity In A Common Union With Christ
 - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
- Unity Through Common Receiving Of The Holy Spirit
 - 1 Corinthians 12:13
- Unity In A Common Faith
 - Ephesians 4:4-6
- Expressions Of Unity Among God's People
 - Commitment To One Another
 - 1 Samuel 18:1-4, Ruth 1:16-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:8
 - Sharing Possessions
 - Acts 4:32
 - Giving Support
 - Joshua 22:3, Deuteronomy 3:18, Hebrews 10:24-25
 - Sharing Troubles
 - 2 Corinthians 1:7, Philippians 4:14, James 5
- Unity Expressed In Agreement With One Another
 - Living In Harmony
 - Psalm 133:1, Ephesians 4:3, 1 Peter 3:8
 - United In Purpose
 - Philippians 1:27
 - Of One Mind
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10
- Unity Expressed In Worshiping God Together
 - Romans 15:5-6
- Unity Marks Out God's People
 - John 17:21-23
 - John 13:34-35

Fellowship Among Believers...

- Fellowship with other believers is meant to help shape who you are and how you live your life. I'm a firm believer in our call to non-believers (Great Commission→ Matthew 28). You should 100% be living side by side with non-Christians. However, when we talk about the group of people who are called to help shape your life and worldview, the Bible reserves that space for God and His church. Real Christian fellowship includes...
 - Sharing In The Fellowship Of God's Love
 - 1 John 4:10-12
 - Sharing In The Fellowship Of A Common Devotional Life
 - Acts 2:42
 - Worshiping Together
 - Psalm 55:14
 - Praying Together

- Acts 1:14
 - Breaking Bread Together
 - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 2 Peter 2:13, Jude 12
- True Fellowship Means Sharing With Those In Need
 - Hebrews 13:16
 - Showing Hospitality
 - Romans 12:13
 - Sharing Money & Possessions
 - Deuteronomy 15:10-11, Acts 2:44-45
- Strengthening One Another In Fellowship Together
 - Bearing With The Weak
 - Galatians 6:1-2
 - Strengthening The Weak
 - Isaiah 35:3-4
 - Encouraging One Another
 - Hebrews 10:24-25
 - Putting The Needs Of Others First
 - Romans 15:2
- True Fellowship Means Living In Harmony
 - 1 Peter 3:8
 - Showing Equal Concern For All
 - Acts 10:34, 1 Corinthians 12:25, James 2:1-4
 - Examples Of Failure To Exhibit True Fellowship
 - 1 Samuel 30:22, 1 Corinthians 1:11-12, 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

Unity and Fellowship of Church

- The church is one in essence, because it is founded on one gospel, united to one Lord and indwelt by one Spirit. Its unity is under constant threat because of the tendency to division that is inherent in fallen humanity, and needs to be continually maintained and actively expressed in fellowship.
 - The Unity Of The Church
 - The Church Is One
 - Romans 12:5
 - The Church Transcends All Barriers
 - Colossians 3:11
 - The church's Unity Reflects The Unity Within The Trinity
 - Ephesians 4:4-6
 - The Church's Unity Is The Work Of The Trinity
 - Ephesians 2:16-18
 - The Purpose Of The Church's Unity
 - To Lead Others To Faith
 - John 17:23
 - To Lead Believers To Maturity
 - Ephesians 4:13

- *The Nature Of The Church's Unity*
 - Philippians 2:1-2
- *Appeals For Unity In The Church*
 - Ephesians 4:3
- *The Church's Unity Is Expressed In Fellowship*
 - Fellowship With God
 - 1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Philippians 2:1, 2 Peter 1:4, 1 John 1:3, 1 John 1:6-7
 - Fellowship Expressed By Meeting Together
 - Acts 2:46
 - Fellowship Expressed Through Sharing Resources
 - Acts 2:44-45
 - Fellowship Through Suffering
 - Revelation 1:9, Romans 8:17
 - Fellowship Through Shared Spiritual Blessings
 - 1 Corinthians 9:23
- *Specific Actions Which Express Fellowship And Unity In The Church*
 - Sharing In The Lord's Supper
 - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
 - Baptism As An Expression Of Unity
 - Ephesians 4:4-6
 - Extending Hospitality
 - Acts 28:7, Romans 12:13, 1 Timothy 5:10, Titus 1:8
 - Greeting One Another
 - Acts 18:27, Romans 16:3-16
 - Welcoming Former Opponents
 - Acts 9:26-27, Galatians 2:9, 2 Corinthians 2:5-8
- *Divisions In The Church*
 - Causes Of Divisions In The NT Church
 - Personal Ambition
 - Mark 9:34, Mark 10:35-41
 - Ethnic Tensions
 - Acts 6:1
 - Differences Of Opinion
 - Acts 15:37-40, Philippians 4:2
 - Troublesome Heretical Leaders
 - Romans 16:17, Jude 19
 - Partisan spirit
 - 1 Corinthians 1:11-12, 1 Corinthians 3:3-4
 - Greed
 - 1 Corinthians 11:18, 1 Corinthians 11:20-21, James 4:1-3
 - Warning Against Division In The Church
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10
 - Acceptable Differences In The Church

- In secondary matters of conscience, Christians are to respect rather than judge each other. These things need not impair the essential unity that is in Christ
 - Romans 14:1-3, Romans 14:5-6, 1 Corinthians 8:9-13
- In Varieties Of Spiritual Gifts
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 1 Corinthians 12:14-25, Galatians 2:7
- Necessary Divisions In The Church
 - Between The True Gospel And Heretical Alternatives
 - Between Those Truly Committed To Jesus Christ, And Those Apparently Part Of The Church But Living In Sinful Lives
 - Over Essential Gospel Principles
 - Acts 15:2, Acts 15:5-6, Acts 15:19, Galatians 2:11