

Let the Church Be the Church: A United Community

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Acts 2:44

"All the believers were together and had everything in common." Acts 2.44

When it comes to unity, there is a lot of intolerance in even the church today. It seems that some people want others to agree on everything, and when others do not think like they do, they withdraw their fellowship and friendship. The early church was a united church. They would exhibit a level of unity and oneness that will forever be an example and challenge to churches everywhere.

All the believers were together...

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." Acts 2.1

"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." Acts 2.46

There is something about togetherness that is foundational for unity. Coming together is the first step toward unity. As Christians in a counter-Christian culture, we are going to have to make some real choices concerning what we stand for and what we are committed to. We need to do it and the world needs to see us do it. We have to make time to be together.

All the believers were together and had everything in common.

(Acts 2:44)

These early believers were so united, that it says, that they had everything in common. They saw themselves as one body of believers in Christ. It was not every man for himself, but rather, one for all and all for one. They had not joined an organization; they were joined together in an organism, a living, multi-membered body, of which Jesus is the head. They had genuine unity.

Disunity can kill a church. In 1 Corinthians, Paul puts forward a powerful plea for unity in the local church. He finds it necessary to exhort the church in Corinth to be united.

"Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, 'I am of Paul,' and 'I of Apollos,' and 'I of Cephas,' and 'I of Christ.'" 1 Corinthians 1.10-12 NASB

"What is the source of quarrels and conflict among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?" James 4.1

"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." John 17.20-21

"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought." 1 Corinthians 1.10

"For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." 1 Corinthians 12.12-13

"We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." Romans 12.5

"And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness. And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul." Acts 4.31-32a