

IV. APPRECIATE DIVERSITY

“12 Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.”

13 Is Christ divided?....” I Corinthians 1:12-13a

God created diversity for our good.

“19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.”
I Corinthians 12:19-20

V. PREACH JESUS

“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.” I Corinthians 1:17

We must come together and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to people of all colors, cultures, classes and countries.

“9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” Revelation 7:9-10

DO YOU HAVE A FAITH THAT UNITES?

“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” I Corinthians 1:10

FORWARD BY FAITH

Faith That Unites
Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

- A.** Welcome to a new year! A new year represents progress. However, God has called us not to just move forward. He commands us to move forward by faith! The Bible says,

“For we walk by faith, not by sight” II Corinthians 5:7

What is faith? Faith is confident obedience to the Word of God regardless of circumstances or consequences.

Faith in God fuels spiritual growth. You are either moving forward by faith or backward by fear.

- B.** Our Forward By Faith teaching series will show you how to trust God more and achieve your goals. The messages include:

Jan 10	Faith That Saves
Jan 17	Faith That Emboldens
Jan 25	Faith That Goes
TODAY	Faith That Unites
Feb 7	Faith That Grows

- C. TEXT:** I Corinthians 1:9-19

In this passage the Apostle Paul deals with division in the church at Corinth. It is important to realize that division among God’s people has always been a challenge. The Old Testament is filled with examples of disunity. Every New Testament epistle deals with this topic or mentions it. The fact is the Twelve Apostles, who were personally trained by Jesus, did not always get along with each other. Therefore, as we move forward by faith, the reality is we will also sometimes experience division. We must respond Biblically to preserve our unity!

FAITH THAT UNITES

What Is Unity?:

“Unity does not mean uniformity. It means ONENESS OF PURPOSE.”
-- Dr. Tony Evans

Jesus defines unity like the oneness of the Holy Trinity. God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one and each is fully God, but their roles are distinct.

“21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” John 17:21-23

Therefore, unity is not sameness because each part of the Godhead has distinct roles. Unity is distinctives moving forward as one in the same direction for the same purpose.

I. VALUE UNITY

“9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ...” I Corinthians 1:9-10a

Unity strengthens fellowship with Jesus and one another.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

II. SPEAK TRUTH

“...that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

I Corinthians 1:10b

Biblical truth is the foundation for unity.

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

John 17:17

“who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.” Romans 1:25

III. RESOLVE CONFLICT

“For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you.” I Corinthians 1:11

- Seek first to understand.

“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” Philippians 2:4

- Attack the problem and not the person.

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Ephesians 4:29

- Forgive, don’t hang on to your hurt.

“bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.” Colossians 3:13

- Remember that God is the ultimate judge, not us.

“But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” Romans 14:10