

# Unity in Diversity

Part 9 of *Taboo* series

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Pastor Rich Warriner

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*I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.*

John 17:11-13

*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. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

John 17:20-23

*All the believers were one in heart and mind.*

Acts 4:32

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:28

*Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.*

Phil 2:2

Principles on unity:

- Unity is the state of being undivided.

- Where there's unity, the impossible can be accomplished.

*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 for them.*

Genesis 11:6

- Lack of unity is a greater enemy of the church & its mission than just about anything else.

- Unity is the place where God commands His blessing.

*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.*

Psalms 133:1, 3

- Unity is achieved in the midst of diversity as we keep...
  - The main thing the main thing.
  - The arrows pointed out.
  - Love, acceptance, and forgiveness in the mix.
  - On our knees in humility.
- Where there's unity in the midst of diversity Jesus shines brightly.

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## Next Steps

Take some time to answer the following questions with your spouse, children, or small group...

- Where have you seen the power of unity in accomplishing a goal?
- Where have you seen the power of division to destroy a team?
- Read John 17:11-13 and 20-23. What does Jesus pray regarding unity? Would you expect unity to be such a big focus of this important prayer of His? Why or why not?
- Read through the list above of ways to achieve unity. Whether in your marriage, family, or church, what are some steps you can take to help achieve unity?
- Pray for one another.