

From Genesis to Revelation, every book of the Bible is filled with stories of man trying to be united in their own strength. But like we heard from Pastor Carter in his message on Sunday morning, unity in the Church is not achieved by man's own effort, but in God. The unity in the Church has to be built upon our new birth. Each believer has the same Holy Spirit, the same Father, and we share the same Word. We trust in the same Jesus and we have been born again in the same Spirit. What Peter was highlighting in the first verses of 1 Peter 2 is that no matter what kind of external situation the Church faces, nothing compares to the eternal of the Spirit that unites us.

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:2-5

During this time of Covid-19, Pastor Carter encouraged us to get outside and converse with God. He encouraged us to seek His Wisdom while in creation and see how in the forest everything works together, like we do in the Church. The Church is the living fulfillment of His prophetic Word. When we are not isolated, nothing can stop the Church. The difference between social distancing and isolation is important to make for the Church, because while we may be socially distant from one another, but we are not isolated.

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

Discussion

- Pastor Carter said that unity in the body is “about abiding in Him”. What do you think it means to abide in Him?
- How does abiding in Him translate to your day-to-day life?
- In this time of social distancing, is it reassuring for you to know that you have brothers and sisters who pray for you?
- Is it harder for you to keep other believers in your prayers when you don't have regular contact with them?
- When we cannot see each other, unity seems to be more complicated. Discuss a strategy for your cell group to stay united.

Prayer

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16

Confession: (admit, acknowledge, reveal, make known)

We can confess individual sins, but also our general nature of sin that we wrestle with every day.

- In light of our conversation, is there anything that the Lord is asking you to confess and be made known?

Thanksgiving:

- How have you seen the Lord provide what you needed when you needed it? How has He shown Himself faithful?

