

thursday – june 25

John 17:11 (and many more)



//unity//

Ok, hope you're tracking with us this week.

Also hope you've enjoyed this "different" camp experience.

We know it's not the way we would have chosen but it's the way God has allowed.

Regardless, it's been a joy to see many of you and to spend some time focusing in on what it really means to FOCUS.

So just a reminder. This week in devo's we're concentrating on 5 things that will be needed in order to live with Christ in FOCUS and Christ as our FOCUS.

How can we live a life that seeks to better understand who Christ and better live in a way that's running to him?

It'll take faith. It'll take obedience. It'll take courage. Today...it's all about UNITY.

YOU'RE NOT MEANT TO WALK THROUGH THIS LIFE ALONE

First of all...even when you think you're alone, you're not.

Don't forget yesterday that quick...CHRIST IS WITH YOU. (IT IS I)

I know...that's different....but really a BETTER different.

Today is not so much about the reality that Jesus will never leave you or forsake...

That's a great a truth for us though right?

Today is more about us. Friendships, partnerships, ministries, the church.

The need to lock arms and walk this life together is HUGE.

Jesus, just before the cross, prays this in **John 17:11 (GO AND READ IT)**

"that they may be one" means unified, together, bonded, one unit.

This is not foreign to us. We see the need for a team or a band or a family or people striving for one common goal to be unified. If they aren't it's disaster.

The need for Unity is big for a group to accomplish a task.

But Unity is big for the individual. You've been there, you've been tired, wanted to quit and someone came along and pushed you to the finish.

Why would we ever think this can't apply to our spiritual lives?

The Bible seems to say this as well. Take a look at these verses with your own eyes:

- Psalm 133:1
- Hebrews 10:24
- Ephesians 4:11-16
- Philippians 2:3
- John 13:35

There are many other places in Scripture that we see the need for Unity, or we see Unity being taught and lived out.

As we look at the Old Testament and we see the many battles, struggles and situation Israel was in throughout their life. One thing that is exposed is either their lack of unity or the strength of their unity.

As we look at the early church, we see God doing amazing things through them. At the very heart of the church was unity. They had all things in common. In fact Acts 5 shares with us the lengths God will go to protect the unity of the early church. Unity was huge then, it's huge now.

Can I get practical for a minute? In going back to my "playing days" there is a great picture I'd like to paint, to help you get the point. It makes sense in my mind at least.

Through many years of playing sports my different teams had many good players, even a few who would be considered great. We also played against these same sorts of teams.

Let me describe the greatest teams I played for or played against? Their success wasn't defined by one or even a few great players. I can remember seeing a team warm up and being able to tell how that fight/game was going to go. The ones that scared me a bit were the ones that looked like a machine. No fun and games, no playing around, no goofing off, but everything being done with purpose and precision. A well-oiled machine. Those teams were unified.

The same is true for my own teams. I've been a part of teams that had some absolute great players on them, but the success of the team was not that great. I've also been a part of some teams that were made up of a bunch of ok players with lion sized hearts, who were also unified. Those teams were the great team.

What does all that mean? Look around at your crowd, your family, our ministry. We are all different, made that way by God. But we all come together with different talents, strengths and weaknesses. When that group, our group, is unified, it cannot be stopped. Yes, we may not win every battle but what we fail to see is the biggest battle has already been won.

What Now?

BE UNIFIED.

Stop tearing down and start building up.

Find those people who are marching toward Zion, who are seeking to live with Christ in Focus and with Christ as their Focus. Lock arms with those people, fight with those people, learn with those people, love those people, laugh with those people, cry with those people, grow with those people, and stand with those people. Because those people will not be moved!

SHARE IT: Find that crowd, identify that crowd and let them know which way you're going. Then lock arms and start the march. Don't look at the present, don't look at the past. But keep your eyes on the prize, on Christ. That will lead you to a life that most pleases God.