

Lessons From Prison Pt. 7

September 10, 2020

The Courage Of Unity In Battle

Philippians 1:27-30 ESV

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,

28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Unity must be deliberately (with intention) nurtured and protected.

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- *If the unity found in the Holy Spirit is maintained in the context and environment of peace, how do we keep the peace?*
- *Don't make issues out of non-issues.*
- *Never let the works of the flesh such as hatred, anger, selfishness, unforgiveness be expressed.*
- *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*
- *Put others before yourself: their needs and their desires.*
- *Give others the time and space to grow in their relationship with Jesus.*

Unity and peace are nurtured and grow in the Word and worship of God.

- *The purpose and context of the assembly must always be, unmistakably be, the worship and Word of God. We don't attract or keep people with temporal gimmicks and strategies.*
- *Biblical unity is not built upon shared interests, common preferences, similar backgrounds, financial or vocational status.*

2 Timothy 4:1-4 ESV

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,
4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

1 Peter 2:1-5 CSB

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander.

2 Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that you may grow up into your salvation,

3 if you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 As you come to him, a living stone -- rejected by people but chosen and honored by God --

5 you yourselves, as living stones, a spiritual house, are being built to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.