

## Daily Devotional, September 25, 2020 Living Together As One

***“ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.” 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV)***

Wouldn't it be unbelievable if we all saw the world in the same way? What if we all agreed about the most important matters? Life would be so much more simple and peaceful! Sure, our differences bring some flavor to life but I think we can all agree to how much better it feels when we come to agree rather than disagree. It sure would be nice but at the same time, it's not part of our reality. Not even close to what our reality seems to be. Our reality is that we all see the world very differently; we all have things that we prompt us to step onto our soap box that are dramatically important to us. Each of our own personal experiences are far different and that makes a huge impact on how we view our world. And that's all fine as long as it doesn't bring division among us.

We are living in an extremely polarizing time in our country. There is much division within and outside of our culture and our church. As followers of Christ, we are called to be unifiers and peacemakers. How can we live out this calling when we all have such conflicting and diversified opinions? Here are a few suggestions I'd like to offer: call it a bit of "food for thought".

#1. Line up your world view with what God's Word reveals to us. Ask God to shape the way you see things through God's Word. Ask God to give you His eyes and His heart for what is important. This won't happen if you aren't reading God's Word.

#2. Keep it classy. Don't argue, put down, or use name calling on Facebook or other Social Media. If you disagree with someone, *especially* another believer, and you feel strongly enough about an issue that you feel that you need to engage in a conversation about, *do it in person!* Ask them to coffee, but sit down and have a meaningful conversation where you hear them out and share from your heart. Posting on social media does not do much to change anyone's mind. Sides are generally drawn!

#3. Let it go & let God have control. For the sake of peace there are times when it is best to let our differences go and to turn it over to God. Pray for God to show you what things are worth fighting for and what is best to just let go of and turn over to God. Just remember that God is the one who can move mountains; not us.

#4. This could just as easily be #1. *Keep unity the goal.* We are to be one body and one family. It's hard to be productive as Christians when we aren't unified.

#5. Memorize and try your best to live out 1 Corinthians 1: 10 which we opened with.

***Prayer: Almighty and eternal God, you keep together those you have united. Look kindly on all who follow Jesus your Son. We are all consecrated to you by our common baptism; make us one in the fullness of faith and keep us one in the fellowship of love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen***