

Daily Devotional, October 8, 2020 Why Can't We All Just Get Along?

“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 great if all of us saw the world the same way? If we all agreed about what is most important? Life would be so much more peaceful and uncomplicated! Yes, our differences bring some flavor to life, but I think we can all agree that it just feels so much better when we agree rather than disagree. It sure would be nice but I'm afraid that this is not a reality. Unfortunately, it is not even close to reality.

The reality is that we all see the world very differently; we all have things that force us onto our personal soap box that are really important to us. Our own personal experiences vary in such greatly different ways and that makes a huge impact on how we view things. Which is okay as long as it doesn't breed division among us.

We are living in a very polarizing period in our country. There is a lot of division within and outside of our government and the church. As followers of Christ we are called to by uniters and peacemakers. How can we carry out this calling when we all have such differing, strong, opinions? While I certainly do not hold all the answers, I would like to offer a few suggestions.

First off, while we may hold some very deep-seeded convictions that we stand by, it is most important that we line up our world view with what God's Word informs us of. It is of upmost importance that we allow God's Word to shape the way we see things. It is good practice for us to ask God to give us His eyes and His heart to see what is important. This of course won't happen if you aren't reading God's Word regularly.

It is also important that we are respectful. Do your due diligence not to argue, to put down, or to name call 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, do it in person. Don't fall prey to hiding inside these benign messengers. Ask the other person to coffee and sit down and have a meaningful conversation where you hear them out and share from your heart. Wear a mask, keep your social distancing, but do everything in your power to resist social media which tends not to change anyone's mind, but instead can antagonize further discussion.

You've heard the expression, "Let go & let God"? 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 are the things that are worth fighting for and what is best to just let go of and to turn over to Him. Remember God is the one who can move mountains; not us.

Most importantly, make unity your goal. We are to be one body and one family. It's hard to be productive when we aren't unified.

If you can, I recommend that you memorize the verse that I opened with, 1 Corinthians 1:10, and live it out. We must always remember who is in authority and whose words we follow."

Prayer: Help us Lord as we work together to build your Kingdom. Help us to be the light that leads the world to you. God, may we be good role models to the people around us so when they see You, and Your love within us they would want to know You, more and more. God grant us the patience to work together, bring us all together as a family. Help us to work together with understanding and compassion in our hearts. In your glorious name we pray. Amen.