



**The Power to Unify**  
**April 24, 2022**

**Unity ≠ Uniformity**

The things that we are most passionate about often cause harm to the things in our life that matter most.

<sup>20</sup> "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. <sup>21</sup> I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. <sup>22</sup> "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. <sup>23</sup> I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

**John 17:20-23 NLT**

**Our natural tendency is to trend toward disunity.**

<sup>1</sup> What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? **James 4:1 ESV**

**Choose to focus on what unites us.**

- Our Savior

<sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." **John 14:6 NLT**

- Our Enemy

<sup>8</sup> Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. **1 Peter 5:8 NLT**

<sup>12</sup> A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. **Ecclesiastes 4:12 NLT**

- Our Mission

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. **Matthew 28:19-20 NLT**

**Journey Church exists to reach those who are disconnected from God and lead them to become fully devoted followers of Jesus.**

**Choose to handle conflict in a biblical manner.**

- With the individual(s)

<sup>15</sup> "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back."

**Matthew 18:15 NLT**

<sup>23</sup> "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God." **Matthew 5:23-24 NLT**

- Without competition

<sup>3</sup> Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. **Philippians 2:3-4 NLT**

- With Christlikeness

<sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup> Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. **Philippians 2:5-8 NLT**

**Next Steps:**

- **Share things that promote unity, not disunity in the church.**
- **Refuse to gossip.**
- **Fix what has been broken.**