

Sisters and Brothers, may the Lord continue to meet all our needs. 7/25/2021

Covenant Life

- The Community coordinators have discerned to establish the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month for our in-person prayer meetings for the remainder of this year. Our next in-person Community Gathering will be Sunday, August 8th at 4pm in the MSMCS gym.
- Our Gathering last Sunday was a blessing. If you were not able to attend, you can listen to the audio [here](#), review the Word Gift summary [here](#), and read the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Reflection - Reflecting on the readings today I was drawn to Paul's letter to the Ephesians ([Eph 4:1-6](#)) because of his exhortation to "*preserve the unity of the spirit*". Unity. Unity is so important in the Christian life. Paul emphasized it so much because of how critical it is to disciples living in community. This has been true in our Community history as well.

We were all born with this innate sense of insecurity and the need to look out for ourselves, take care of ourselves, focus our attention upon our own welfare and betterment. The world piles on with its attention to power, possessions, and prestige. The Christian life is one of letting go of this tendency. Learning to be others-centered, selfless, surrendered to God, and totally dependent on Him.

It is this innate tendency toward selfishness that makes living the Christian life, especially in community, so hard. Hence Paul's exhortation to unity. One of the most significant blessings of Community is the opportunity to take our eyes off ourselves and focus on the needs of others. Unity requires deference.

Community, just as in our own families, present us opportunities to defer, to grow, to be 'rocks in the polisher' tumbling together working off the rough edges.

Paul urges us to "*live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love*".

As I think back to the early days of Community I picture myself in situations learning this lesson. Unfortunately, it is hard to forget the times I hurt others. If we are honest, I expect all of us can recall instances where we said or did something that offended a sister or brother and hurt rather than helped our unity. We also learned the importance of asking and giving forgiveness. I believe it is never too late to ask, so, to all those I have hurt, the ones I am aware of and to the many I am unaware of, I am sorry. I am sorry for whatever I have done or not done, said or not said, that in any way, offended or hurt you. As the current Overall Coordinator, I offer the same apology on behalf of all prior leaders of our Community. I am truly sorry for all the mistakes and poor decisions that have caused hurt, division, pain, or suffering. This was not God's perfect will for us. Please accept my heartfelt apology.

Unity is our flag held high. Unity is our light on Glory Hill shining bright in North Texas. Let us forgive one another. Let us forgive those who have passed or are no longer active. Let us recommit ourselves to follow Paul's urging and *"live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love"*. This is what it means to be a covenant member of the Christian Community of God's Delight. We are *A People* called to a particular mission. We are called as a covenant people to be wholly dedicated to God, growing in holiness, where our love for one another is our primary witness. This only happens if we live **unity** and commit to this regardless the cost. This is only possible with ongoing forgiveness and reconciliation. Let us recommit to be His People, to living united, and being His Delight!

Let us pray *"Heavenly Father, I am sorry for the times I have offended my sisters and brothers and hurt the unity that You call me to. Give me the courage to repair whatever wrongdoing I am responsible for so that Your people are united and restored. Today, I recommit to living a life worthy of the call I have received, with humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with my sisters and brothers through Your love. Amen."*

God bless,

David