

The Huddle

Ready - Part 2

January 9, 2022

Unity

If we want to be **ready** for God to use us, we must be **unified**.

"I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose." 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NLT)

Why Unity Matters:

1. It's God's Design

"⁴Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other." Romans 12:4-5 (NLT)

Unity ≠ uniformity

2. It's where you are best off

"⁹Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. ¹⁰If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NLT)

3. It's how we as a church will make our greatest impact

4. The enemy wants to divide and conquer

We don't drift towards unity by accident.

We row towards unity on purpose.

"³Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. ⁵There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all." Ephesians 4:3-6 (NLT)

What unified churches do:

- Lay down personal preferences and put others first (Philippians 2:3-8)
- Refuse to tolerate gossip (2 Corinthians 12:20)
- When there is conflict:
 - Lean in, don't run away (Matthew 18:15)
 - Talk less, listen more (James 1:19)
 - Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)
 - Take ownership and apologize (Matthew 5:23-24)
 - Be quick to forgive (Colossians 3:13)
- Follow leadership (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)
- Pray together (John 17:20-21)

- Roll out the red carpet out for guests (Romans 15:7)

Are you connected to the body?

- thebayouchurch.org/groups

Do you know your role?

“⁶In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.” Romans 12:6-8 (NLT)

- First Steps

Are you playing your role?

*“²¹I 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.** ²²I have given them the glory you gave Me, so they may be one as We are one. ²³I 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 17:21-23 (NLT)

A united church will reach and change the world.

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