



Cell Notes

United we stand - Divided we fall

Paul elaborates four truths about the kind of unity/oneness which God intends for his people and his Church (Eph 4:1-16). This reflects Jesus' final prayer to His Father - that believers are of one heart, mind and spirit and therefore united in mission and ministry. (Jn 17:20-24).

- 1. Unity depends on our love for one another v1.** The foundation of our unity is characterized by five qualities of love – lowliness, meekness, patience and mutual forbearance. It is by honouring and respecting one another in this way that we become one family.
- 2. Unity reflects the nature of God. v. 3-6** There is 'one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all'. Christians have been born into the unity of God by baptism or submission to the Lordship of Christ. Whilst there may be differences of opinion from one Christian to another, the fundamental truths of unity are undeniable. When Christians fully appreciate these truths God's power, strength and authority is released.
- 3. Unity is enriched by our diversity. v 7.** Each believer is called to discover and use the gifts which have been bestowed upon them. These gifts (*charismata*) are as diverse and creative as God Himself. It is in discovering and using these gifts that the Church is able to reflect the nature and purposes of God. **4. Unity leads to maturity v13-16.** The Church matures when its members maintain and live out these truths corporately, guarding unity at all costs and living in mutual love and respect for one another. Discipleship, as we have heard over the last few weeks, is not easy but the rewards always bring glory to God and freedom to His people. It is when we demonstrate to the world that the unity we say exists (in song, liturgy and prayer) is a true and glorious reality.

Jesus has won this rich and rewarding life for you on the Cross, He shows us how to recover unity if it is lost and invites us into deeper fellowship with Him. Wow!

Some questions to inspire and challenge:

Read John 17:20-24 and Ephesians 4:1-16

- Would you say that you love members of the church as Paul suggests (with lowliness, meekness, patience and forbearance)? What helps or hinders your willingness to do this?
- What impact does it have to know that Christians are part of 'one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all'? v3-6
- God has given gifts (*charismata*) to bring unity and diversity to the church. What are your gifts and do you see the use of them as unifying the Church?
- What do you do in order to guard unity in the Church?

19th Nov 2006
Share
 st chads romiley

St Chads Church Office
 1-5 Stockport Road Romiley
 Stockport SK6 4BN 430 4652
 stchads@romileylifecentre.co.uk

Vicar: **Tim Barlow: 430 4841**
 Associate Vicar: **Tom Parker: 494 0547**
 Curate: **Jane Beaumont 01457 853053**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 20th

3.30pm Climbers (4's to 7's)
 6.00pm Basecamp (11's to 13's)
 7.30pm Alpha

Tuesday 21st

6.00pm Explorers (7's to 11's)
 7.45pm Immerse

Wednesday 22nd

11.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 23rd

6.30pm Thirst (14's to 18's)
 8.00pm Youth Cell (14's to 18's)

Friday 24th

7.00pm Euphoria Café in
 Guywood (14+)

Sunday 26th Advent 1

8.00am Early Communion
 9.15am Parish Communion
 10.30am Kids Church 'Ignite'
 10.45am Morning Praise
 7.30pm An evening of worship,
 discussion and prayer

ST CHADS CHURCH GIVING

Each year we give 10% of our previous year's church income to various missionary societies, projects and individuals at home and abroad. The amount we give to different organisations for 2007 will largely be decided at the next PCC meeting on November 30th. The principles we have adopted to guide us are:

- * Our church giving should be broadly balanced between giving 'abroad' and 'home'.
- * Part of our giving 'abroad' should be to a Christian relief organisation such as Tear Fund.
- * As far as possible, we should try to limit the number of organisations and individuals we give to so that we are able to give substantial sums that really make a difference.
- * We will give priority to support organisations or individuals with whom we have a personal link.

You can find information about how this year's giving was distributed in the 'Church Giving' booklet available at the back of church or in Guywood. If you would like to make any suggestions for next year's allocation, please speak to Tom as soon as possible.

KEEPING MARRIAGES

HEALTHY The next course will run on two Saturdays - 25th November and 2nd December. Please contact the church office by 22nd Nov if you would like to attend.

REMINDER

Don't forget to bring your gifts for Wood Street Mission '*Children at Christmas Appeal*' to any of the services **NEXT SUNDAY!**

IGNITE, IMMERSE and the like

On Sunday 26th November there will be an opportunity for people to share and discuss their different experiences of our new service pattern as we seek to discern the way ahead together. We will begin the evening with a time of worship at 7.30pm in church before sharing our thoughts and then praying together. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please feel free to write out or email your comments and pass them on to Jan in the church office.