



First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southern California  
San Bernardino Region  
Leadership MasterClass Symposium

**2023 Ministry In The Now**  
**The Importance Of Having Unity In The Body Of Christ**

**Jesus Prayed For All Believers**

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that you sent Me.” “And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” (John 17:20-23)

“And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:26)

**As Believers God’s Love Has Been Poured Out In Our Hearts By The Holy Spirit**

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

**Genuine Love For Our Brothers and Sisters In The Lord Is A Key To Seeing Unity Within The Body Of Christ.**

“For God *so loved the world* that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

**SAN BERNARDINO REGIONAL LEADERS, as Believers We Need To Allow God’s Love Which is Poured Out in Our Hearts by The Holy Spirit, To Flow Through Us To Touch The Lives Of The Lost and Hurting In Our Communities**



- True love is also accompanied by practical acts of kindness.

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but indeed and in truth.” (1 John 3:16-18)

### Christians In The Early Church Demonstrated Loved and Support For One Another (Love In Action)

“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:32-33)

“Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.” (Acts 4:34-35)

- The Early Church Had Great Unity And Moved In Power

## WHY MINISTRY IN THE NOW REQUIRES UNITY WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST

### 1. It Is A Key To Seeing God’s Power In Our Church

Unity amongst the disciples, “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” (Acts 1:14)

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)



“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)

After experiencing much persecution, the early church began to pray for boldness: “So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them.” (Acts 4:24)

- **As they prayed together in unity God moved mightily in their midst**

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the Name of Your Holy Servant Jesus.” (Acts 4:29-30)

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)

“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:32-33)

## **2. It Is A Key To Building Effective Ministry Teams**

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the EQUIPPING of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.”  
(Ephesians 4:11-13)

“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.” (Ephesians 4:16)

## **3. It Helps In Seeing The Unsaved Coming To Christ**



“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

“that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” (John 17:21)

I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” (John 17:23)

#### 4. It Is A Key To Experiencing God’s Blessings and Favour

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing – Life forevermore.” (Psalm 133:1-3)

#### 5. It Is A Key To Seeing SAN BERNARDINO REGIONAL LEADERS Continue To Grow and Impact Our Community

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)

**WORKING TOGETHER IN UNITY, SAN BERNARDINO REGION CAN SEE OUR COMMUNITIES IMPACTED AND TRANSFORMED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually



members of one another.” (Romans 12:4-5) AND

## God Himself Strongly Disapproves Of Anyone Sowing Discord Amongst the Brethren

“These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.”

(Proverbs 6:16-19)

## Leaders Should Always Recall Paul’s Desire For The Church At Ephesus

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

(Ephesians 3:17-19)

- **There’s no place for division when your heart is filled with the fullness of God.**

“For **we** are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

- **There is no “I” in “**WE**”:**

**NOW** unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

- **SAN BERNARDINO REGION: Ministry In The Now - Moving Forward in Unity with Great Faith**



Discover **NOW** thru the study of God's Word 13 ways we can promote unity among one another: *(list the bible reference for each)*

1. Love one another – John 15:12-13
2. Welcome one another – \_\_\_\_\_
3. Bear one another's burdens – \_\_\_\_\_
4. Be at peace with one another – \_\_\_\_\_
5. Serve one another – \_\_\_\_\_
6. Bear with one another – \_\_\_\_\_
7. Be kind to one another – \_\_\_\_\_
8. Forgive one another – \_\_\_\_\_
9. Be humble before one another – \_\_\_\_\_
10. Pray for one another – \_\_\_\_\_
11. Do good to one another – \_\_\_\_\_
12. Encourage one another – \_\_\_\_\_

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”  
(Hebrews 10:24-25)

**NOW Paul instructs us to meet, even in 2023. WHY?**

Because it's not good for us to be alone. We need teaching and instruction. We benefit from sharing each other's pain and rejoicing in each other's blessings and in **working in ministry together.**