



*I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1-6)*

If you have Netflix I would recommend David Letterman's interview with comedian Dave Chappelle. At one point the discussion turns to the George Floyd killing. And that's when Chappelle said something I hadn't considered before. He called the George Floyd killing in particular, and the killing of other black and brown people in general, a matter of national security. He went on to explain that the more racially divided we remain in this country, the weaker we appear to nations that might want to do us harm.

I wasn't necessarily looking for it, but this distinct jolt of intellectual provocation made me think differently. Not just about racism, but also other things that divide us. Politics, religion, sexuality, economics, poverty, homelessness, immigration, nationalism, and so forth. If Chappelle's theory was applied to all of these things with the realization that we are fractured around them just as we are around race, then just how unprotected have we allowed ourselves to become?

No matter how we might answer that question, it remains imperative that we recognize that Christ calls us to unity in the church. We can live together with competing values and perspectives about any number of things, but we should never allow them to become a wedge between brothers and sisters who are claimed by Christ.

The apostle Paul reminds us in his letter to the church at Ephesus that we are members of "one body and one Spirit," bound together in "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all." As we continue to move together through this unprecedented time in history, let's keep working at building unity within the body of Christ. We can use this time to grow in our respect for one another, and to celebrate our common bond in Jesus Christ. There is strength in unity, and right now the world needs to see that we can be one because Christ makes it so at the cross.

What can you do today to make our Christian unity a visible expression to others?

Pastor Chuck

Let us pray. Most high and holy God, pour out upon us your one and unifying Spirit, and awaken in every confession of the whole church a holy hunger and thirst for unity in you; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen (ELW, 2006)