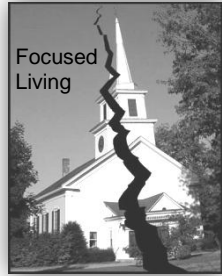


ALL IN 22

Reconcile Jesus Style



“All these things are from God, who **reconciled** us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**.” (II Cor 5:18)

“...be of the **same mind**, maintaining the **same love**, united in spirit, intent on **one purpose**...
I urge Euodia and Syntyche to **live in harmony** in the Lord.” (Phil 2:2, 4:2)

A man had been shipwrecked alone on a deserted island for 30 years. One day he was miraculously found and rescued by a cargo boat. As they were leaving the island the captain asked, “Before we take you back to civilization I am curious to know about those 3 buildings you built.” The man pointed, “Well that one on the right was my faithful shelter that kept me dry and warm all these years. The building on the left kept me sane as it is the church I went to every day for prayer so that I might keep God’s perspective on my hard situation.” The captain asked, “But what is the building in the middle?” The man replied, “O, that’s the church I used to attend before it split!” **Without naming names or a particular church or ministry, have you ever been through a split or experienced disunity among God’s people? How did it feel? What was the core issue(s)? What was the result? What did you learn?**

Marriages, families and churches are made up of people. And people often fail to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all **humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience**, showing **tolerance** for one another in **love**, being diligent to preserve the **UNITY** of the Spirit in the bond of **peace**” (Eph 4:1-3). It is no wonder that **Jesus prayed for unity four times** for His ALL IN disciples the night before He went to the cross (John 17:11, 21-23). As we continue to highlight key characteristics of ALL IN men from the book of Acts we find that even they experienced disunity. Twenty years after the church started (Acts 2) things were going well until some men started teaching that, for a Gentile to be saved, he must also keep the Jewish ceremonial law. In other words, a Gentile must first become a Jew in order to become a Christian! This false teaching denied that men were saved by grace alone through faith (Eph 1:7; 2:1-10; Rom 5:1-2; 6:23; Tit 3:4-7; Acts 16:30-31). A “**great dissension**” (‘Stasis’ stand strong, i.e. insurrection.) *and debate*” arose (Acts 15:2) which threatened to split and shatter the early church as well as destroy its first missionary outreach team. Once the smoke cleared and relationships were healed another division occurred (Acts 15:30-41)! **According to Acts 13:5, 13 and 15:38 what was the key issue in the rift between Paul and Barnabas’ cousin, Mark? What was the result in 15:39-40? According to II Timothy 4:11 how did it all end up?**

YOUR MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION What strained or broken relationship(s) are you presently facing? Bill Hybels summarizes the reconciliation process with 5 Go’s: **1 Go!** (Mt 18:15). **2 Go alone.** **3 Go restore:** (Gal 6:1-2) **4 Go now:** (Mt 5:23) **5 Let it go** (Rom 12:18)! Which of the following 2 principles/passages will you apply to your situation to bring healing and restore fellowship.

1. **Talk to God** before talking to the person. (James 1:5; 4:1-10)
2. **Make the 1st move** to reconcile. (Matt 5:23-24)
3. **Start at the Cross.** (Eph 2:13-18; Luke 23:34)
4. Understand the **other person’s viewpoint and feelings.** (Phil 2:4)
5. **Guard your lips.** No harmful words (Eph 4:29; Col 3:8; I Pt 2:21-24)
6. **Get your heart right** before entering the fray as they are not the enemy. (Matt 7:1-5; Eph 4:31-32; 1 John 1:5-9; 1Pet 5:5-7)
7. Choose to **build and bless** not bruise and break. (Rom 12:18; Matt 5:9; Phil 2:1-3; I Pet 2:11-16; 3:8-11)
8. **Attack the problem**, not the person. (Ps 73:21-22; Prov 15:1; 16:21)
9. **Confess your part** of the conflict. (Matt 7:5; 1 John 1:8)
10. **Take the hit** rather than hit back. (Rom 15:1-3; Prov 19:11)
11. **Speak the truth in love** using a velvet covered brick. (Gal 6:1-2; Eph 4:15; I Pet 2:11-16)
12. **Relinquish your rights** to get even, retaliate, seek revenge or keep score verbally, emotionally or physically. *Respond* with good, never *react* with evil. (I Cor 13:4-6; Rom 12:19; Gen 45:5-7; 50:20)
13. Extend the same **grace & forgiveness** God has shown you. (Matt 6:12-14; 18:21-35; Col 3:12-13; Rom 8:1-2; Ps 103:8-17)
14. Make things right through **restitution** at your own cost. (Ex 22:1-15)
15. Talk! Keep the **communication lines open.** (Acts 15:6-29)
16. Work hard to **keep unity** once you have it. (1 Cor 1:10; Eph 4:1-6)
17. **Leave the results** to God. (Rom 12:18; 14:19; Heb 12:14)



TAG TEAM DISCUSSION How ALL IN are you in seeking/preserving unity in your church and with others. What key take away will you apply?