

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

May 27, 2020



Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

Psalm 133:1

Let's Keep it Together

Unity is a beautiful thing, but also elusive. I've always hated conflict and in my early years went out of my way to avoid confrontation. Several things have happened in my life that changed that.

First, I found that being a “middleman” invites controversy. I worked as an “agent” for 12 years. Was I an agent for the company? Yes. Was I an agent for the client? Yes. You can probably see why avoiding confrontation became problematic in that setting.

After that, as the saying goes, I jumped from the frying pan into the fire. I became a full-time preacher. I won't even try to tell you some of the odd stuff I've run into since that decision in 1985. Maybe some other time.

I didn't learn my lesson; I became an elder. I think I'll leave it there for now. I'm not complaining one bit, though. As far as I know, you've been respectful and kind to the elders.

In 1997, I started publishing *Focus Magazine*. If you can't handle controversy, conflict and confrontation, don't start a magazine that will be read by a few thousand brethren. Talk about stirring up a hornet's nest. Wow.

And to think that Paul told us that even if we disagree strongly with someone and think we are right — or even if we find them in sin — we should correct (“restore”) them with a spirit of gentleness (Galatians 6:1). And Peter said even if we are doing something as important as making a defense of what we believe, we should do it with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)

Some people seem to live for controversy. Some people like to grumble and complain and to press their opinion. Proverbs 18:2 says, “A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.” There are people like that.

Some just grumble under their breath. Some never really address the issue, but allow resentment to build. There is so much wrong with all of that. It is unloving (see 1 Corinthians 13:5) and unbecoming. It places a shadow over the gospel and, therefore, over Christ (Philippians 2:14-15). And some wonder why we aren't having more of an impact.

The elders are about to come out with a plan for “getting back to church.” It's impossible, of course, to please everyone. I don't mind telling you that I won't be pleased with every aspect of it. There are too many moving parts to think that we could magically produce a plan that satisfies all of us. We are faced with trying to somehow shoehorn nearly 400 of us into the building at various times on a Sunday either this week or next.

We're expecting some differences of opinion, and that's OK. But you can be sure that we have taken everything we could think of and everything we've heard and are hearing into consideration. The elders care about your physical welfare and your spiritual welfare and that guides all our decisions. Our role is defined in Hebrews 13:17 and we take it seriously.

Most of all we look forward to seeing you all again, maybe not up close, but in person. It'll be good to see... at least the eyes of all our beloved brethren again.

You can expect an announcement on our plans very soon.