



The devil Does Not Want You to Hear This Preston Morrison

Focus The devil has been trying to separate us from God and from each other because he understands that unity is the key God has given us to grow and be most effective in the kingdom.

Fun If you could travel to any country next week, where would you go and what would you do there?

Review Key Scripture: John 17:9–11, 20–23; Ecclesiastes 4:9–12; Psalm 133:1–3

1. The devil is a deviant divider.

The chief aim of the devil is to cause division because he hates the unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Mark 3:25 says, “If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” The devil does not want the Church of God to stand together because when we stand unified, we are able to crush his head beneath our feet.

2. Satan hates his notes on unity.

The enemy has learned that when we are united and ask in His name, heaven responds (Matthew 18:19–20). And according to Ecclesiastes 4:9–12, unity is far more effective against the enemy. Unity invites God’s anointing, God’s refreshing, and God’s commanded blessing on your life. When we are unified in the name of Jesus, there is no limit to what we can accomplish for His glory.

3. Unity demands your commitment.

When we allow distance between one another, we create space for the enemy to move in and wreak havoc in our lives. We must be committed to close the distance between us by not judging; by being quick to apologize and forgive;

and by seeing, appreciating, and celebrating everyone's uniqueness and value in God's eyes.

Group Dynamics Idea There is so much division between different denominations in the body of Christ. Find a church of a different denomination and attend their service together as a group. Meet beforehand and afterward to pray that God would bless His people there and that He would unify His bride in Jesus' name.

Discuss

1. Why do you think God chose unity to be the expression of the Trinity? What can we learn from that? In your own words, why do you think the enemy is so violently opposed to unity?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9–12. Have you experienced a time when you felt the strength of your brothers and sisters unified around you, enabling you to stand firm when you could not do it alone? Please share.
3. Judgment can be measured by the distance between two people. In what relationships do you find the greatest distance? Instead of focusing on their worst moments, take time to highlight their best moments. Write them down. Commit to praying blessings over them.
4. Be accountable. Share with the group what steps you will take to draw closer to relationships that are distanced. Be creative and be specific. Oftentimes we will follow through more frequently when we have made specific plans.
5. Pastor Preston said, "Anyone can come up with a reason to remain divided and distant, but it takes a commitment to come close and stay close." He highlighted the commitment not to judge; the commitment to apologize and forgive; and the commitment to see, appreciate, and celebrate. Examine the leaders, friends, and family around you. How have you witnessed others walk out this commitment to stay close in relationships? What does it look like to see, appreciate, and celebrate others?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- The greatest open door for the enemy is through the relationship you are most frustrated with.
- Unity is the key to our growth and effectiveness in the kingdom.
- God made each us in His image, even the ones who frustrate us the most.

Prayer

Lord, forgive us where we have walked in judgment and criticism of our brothers and sisters. Forgive us where we have allowed distance. We commit today to close the gap in those relationships and walk humbly before You. Help us to view others as sons and daughters made in Your image. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip For some of your group, this may be an exceptionally daunting or sensitive message. They may not be at a place where they feel able or willing to pursue that person who most frustrates them because the wounds run deep. Ask if there is anyone still struggling with the desire to see a relationship restored. We don't need to know specific details. But we can agree with them in prayer that God's grace would soften their hearts and supernaturally give them a love for this person.