

September 6, 2020

**The Role of the church in this time of
opportunity; COVID-19, tribalism and political
upheaval!**

United in Christ!

"What only being united in Christ can achieve"!

**Galatians 3:28 ESV There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and
female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

**Colossians 3:11 ESV Here there is not Greek and Jew,
circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian,
slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.**

Introduction

Where does this unity that is spoken of come from?
What are some things that benefit the brining about
of this unity?

In the midst of the virus, tribalization, and political
upheaval what should the church be doing?

Micah 6:8 Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly
with your God!

We have looked at the unity we have in Christ and
the impact that has on our lives in community

We have seen that the only possible and real unity
that can be achieved is the unity we have in Christ
Jesus

In Colossians we have seen what it looks like to
mature in Christ

How are we united?

Our sinfulness Our deadness Our lostness

Our need for a Savior

Our sinfulness and lostness unite as we gather at the
cross

Today we will see where that unity takes us

Colossians 3:11 ESV Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Where is this "here" talking about?

Where in the world is there a place that all these ethnicities and languages even come together?

In His church and in His home

Different culture and different dynamics

This unity is supernatural when a person is born again and the Spirit of God takes up residence but it must be cultivated

Colossians 3:1-2 ESV If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Looking to Christ

Following Christ

Raised in Christ

Heavenly minded

Indwelt by Christ

Heavenly gazing

Fully trusting in Christ

Obedying Christ

Colossians 3:13 ESV Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Bearing with and forgiving one another

Colossians 3:16 ESV Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God

This is another key

People who are in Christ and in the Word can have this unity

Immersed in the Word

Diligently searching, heartily receiving, and carefully obeying

Colossians 4:2-4 ESV Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. **3** At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— **4** that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

People of prayer

People who know how to pray

People who pray for all the saints

People who pray for the advancement of the Kingdom and the workers thereof

Colossians 1:19-20 ESV For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

We have been reconciled to God and one another
By Christ and His work on our behalf

Ephesians 2:19 ESV So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

Citizens of His kingdom, members of His household

Romans 8:9 ESV You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.**

Indwelt by the Spirit of God

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 ESV For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

One body drinking of the one Spirit

Philippians 2:2 ESV Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Having the same mind, the same love being in full accord

Summary

Surely much of this is the supernatural work of God Yet we can see from this text that there are things that we must be about doing as we strive for this unity

This unity that is so deep that it brings us all to the Lord's table as one

So in finishing this text and as we break bread and remember the Lord's death today what can we be about doing to enhance this unity?

Examine ourselves to make sure we are saved

Intentionally be heavenly focused

Continually put off the old and put on the new man

Bearing and forgiving one another

Be people of the Word, search it, receive it joyfully, and carefully live it

Be people of systematic and continuous prayer

Be intentionally in step with the Lord and as we live wisely in the world

Looking to His broken body and His shed blood and those alone for our forgiveness

Next week, "One Blood", Acts 17:26

"Lord's Supper"

Matthew 26:26-29 ESV Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

"A Catechism for Boys and Girls, Erroll Hulse

Q124. What does the bread represent?

A. The body of Christ, broken for our sins.

Q125. What does the wine represent?

A. The blood of Christ, shed for our salvation.

1 Corinthians 11:23-32 ESV For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance

of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. 31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world."

Law and Order is for Everyone! Ken Blackwell

Calling for law and order was never controversial -- until the current President did it. And now that his message is resonating in America, the media has decided: restoring order isn't just controversial, but racist too. In one of the most absurd attacks on the administration since June, the Associated Press has decided that public safety is the cry of the prejudiced. But by column's end, it was their own biases that were laid bare, not the President's.

Of course, this AP tried to pass off this liberal libel as "analysis" instead of an editorial, which is where a partisan rant like this one belongs. Comparing him to Richard Nixon in 1968, Steve Peoples and Zeke Miller begin a methodical condemnation of the White House for daring to object to the violence. "The president's shifting message, which draws from Nixon's half-century-old political playbook, carries risks just nine weeks before Election Day," they claim before savaging him for the coronavirus response and economy. The only reason he's invoking this "law-and-order rhetoric," they argue, is to "win white voters," which is not only untrue -- but offensive.

If anything's racist, it's suggesting that only white people care about public safety. The reality is, black and minority neighborhoods have more to lose when our streets are overrun than anyone. "Defunding the police is

the project of a small number of wealthy young radicals who have never lived in a world without the police and have no idea what can happen to them without the cops," Daniel Greenfield argues. "Black people who live in poorer areas know exactly what can and does happen every week. As the president said, and I can confirm from years on the police force, "If you look at the black community, they want the police to help them stop crime."

I've seen it first-hand in the intercity neighborhoods of Baton Rouge as a police officer; the mothers and grandmothers who want their children to be able to play safely outside. They were tired of the drug dealers and gangs putting the lives of their children at risk.

"By backing law and order," the polls say, "the President is standing with the nearly three in four African-Americans who are happy with their local police departments over the less than one in five who aren't." To claim, as the AP did, that the President is "peddling notions of dangerous mobs of largely African American rioters" is an outright lie. Or, in Ken Blackwell's words, nothing but "rubbish, hogwash, liberal psychobabble." "It's crazy," he said on "Washington Watch." (Google frc.org/updatearticle/20200903/law-order)

"They wouldn't know if [the truth] if smacked him upside the back of the head. Look... this is what the President has exposed. Public safety is not a political strategy. It is a leadership obligation. It's a constitutional obligation for elected officials to uphold and defend the constitution against enemies, foreign and domestic... What has backfired on the Left and on the left is that they have, in fact, chosen anarchy and disruption -- and therefore they have decided they have a joined themselves with Antifa and Black Lives Matter."

And if they think that's scoring them civil rights points, they're wrong. This was not the path of Martin Luther King Jr. or any of the great leaders of the 1960s, Ken argues. "[Dr. King] said then we were at a point where we had to choose between chaos or community. Right [now], in 2020 American, we have a choice: Do we choose chaos -- or do we choose public safety and community?" Based on the surging support of the current administration, Americans want the latter. Zogby, the Democracy Institute, Rasmussen -- they've all picked up on the country's anxiety over the left's indifference to the unrest.

"Is the other Presidential candidate so compromised by the politics of his own nomination that he cannot fault Antifa, BLM, and by association the Left-wing, local blue-state district attorneys general, city councils, mayors, and governors who appease and encourage the urban war zones?" Victor Davis Hanson wonders. "If he did so,

would he bleed support from among his new socialist coalition with Bernie Sanders and the squad?" Right now, he warned, "The street brigades and their various enablers know that they represent a key constituency in the new socialist Democratic Party. And so they will riot and burn until Election Day in the belief, as narcissists, that they are winning converts..."

And yet, they're not. "The hard Left have no idea how badly the violence is hurting their cause." As Ken pointed out, the message from America has been clear: "We want to be safe." And more than that, they're starting to realize that what's manifesting in the streets, in the smoldering buildings, in the rioting and looting, is really what's been happening culturally under the watch of many of these Democratic governors. They've seen their policies that have led to the dissolution of the family, that core unit of society. And many of them may be thinking - like we are -- there's going to be nothing left of this country if we allow them to remain in control.

Recently, Democratic Senator Tim Kaine announced on the floor of the Senate that:

"The United States didn't inherit slavery from anybody. We created it."[i]

For even the most basic student of world history such a statement ought to immediately be recognized as incomprehensively ridiculous. Historically, every single people, nation, culture, and race has at various times been both the slave and the master. Indeed, "all have sinned and fallen short" (Romans 3:23). Sen. Kaine, just like the famously inaccurate 1619 Project, must ignore documented history and create his own fantasy world to arrive at such a conclusion.

For example, in ancient Greece—which existed thousands of years before America—nearly 30% of their population were slaves. The Roman Empire reached a staggering 40%.[ii] In fact, one of the most significant and widely known aspects of the Bible centers around the Israelites being delivered out of slavery in Egypt through the famous Exodus. We could walk through every nation in human history and find a tragic past riddled with slavery.

Arab Slavers

Prior to the creation of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade by the Spanish from Africa to South America in the early 1500s, Africa already participated in a robust trans-Saharan and Indian Ocean slave trade. Black tribes would raid, capture, and enslave other black tribes for profit, selling them across the continent and beyond. Many of these slaves were sold into the Islamic Middle East, and "medieval Arabs came to associate the most degrading

forms of labor with black slaves.”[iii] Most likely it was this racial bias which was translated to the Iberian Peninsula (i.e., Spain and Portugal) when the Muslims conquered parts of that area in the 8th century. When the Spanish became the first European nation to significantly colonize the New World, they seemingly brought this bias with them which was thereby disseminated through the Americas, North, Central, and South. In this sense, America very literally inherited racial slavery—from the Arab Middle East through Spain.

Christian Slaves

What is perhaps even more astounding is that a larger number of white Europeans were captured and sold into African slavery than the number of Africans sold into the land that would become the United States. Just over 300,000 black slaves landed in the North American colonies which became America[iv] but 1,250,000 white Europeans were captured and shipped to slave markets in Northern Africa.[v] This Barbary Coast Trade lasted longer than American slavery and was only stopped through the naval efforts of the British and Americans. Furthermore, it was not until the late 17th century that black slaves in the New World outnumbered white slaves in the Old.[vi]

Additionally, for hundreds of years before Christopher Columbus ever conceived of the idea to sail westward, the Native Americans practiced mass slavery amid other practices including human sacrifice and cannibalism. This pre-Columbian native slave trade was so prolific that “wherever European conquistadors set foot in American tropics, they found evidence of indigenous warfare, war

captives, and captive slaves.”[vii] Indeed, indigenous cultures saw slavery rates so prevalent that up to 20-40% of all Indians were enslaved by other Indians.[viii]

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

Even today, nearly 160 years after America became one of the first nations to abolish slavery, there are still 94 nations that do not have laws criminalizing slavery.[ix] This has led to the enslavement of over 40 million people in the world right now. In a stroke of tragic irony, Africa has the highest rate of slavery today, closely followed by Asia,[x] while North America has the lowest.[xi] Currently, Africa holds some 9,240,000 people in chains and slavery today,[xii] which is nearly identical to the total number of slaves disembarked in the entire New World (North, Central, and South America) throughout the almost four centuries of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.[xiii]

So, clearly Sen. Tim Kaine must either be completely ignorant about the history of slavery or maliciously intentional in his presentation of “facts.” America in no way created slavery—in fact, if we were to say anyone “created” slavery in America we must conclude that the indigenous people did so. By contrast, the United States, despite its well-known shortcomings, ought to receive credit for having done more than nearly any other nation in the history of the world to fight slavery both in the past and today.