

Dynamic Disciples: Discovering the Power Within Through Prayer

Week 7: The Cross of Christ and Unity vs. Division

“Weekly Takeaways”

“Prayer is the God-given communication link between Heaven and Earth, time and eternity, the finite and the infinite”.

Tony Evans

Battle Plan

- Enlistment
- Basic training
- Conditional
 - **Vertical: The Cross of Christ**
 - **Horizontal: Unity vs. Division**
- Strategies
- Targets
- Ammunition

Key Verse

- *He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. 1 Peter 2:24*

Vertical: The Cross of Christ

- A true relationship with God, with the confidence in approaching Him in prayer, must begin with repentance and faith in the cross of Jesus Christ, it doesn't matter what your denominational preferences are.
- Salvation that comes by grace through faith separates Christianity from every other religion in the world.
- After a person is genuinely saved and is truly transformed by Christ, specific good works will start showing up as evidence or proof of their salvation.

Fruits of True Salvation (Key indicators)

1. A lifestyle of obedience to God (1 John 2:3-6) *Although Christians stumble and make mistakes, the big picture direction and habit of a true believer becomes one of submission and obedience to Christ.*
2. A confession of Jesus as the Christ, God's Son (1 John 2:22-23) *While cults communicate that Jesus was merely a good teacher or prophet, God's Word says He is the Christ, the sinless Son of God, and the Lord of all. Do you openly confess that Jesus Christ is God's Son, or do you believe Him to be merely a good teacher or prophet?*
3. A lifestyle of repentance of sin (1 John 3:9-10; 13:3; James 3:2) *Though we all stumble in many ways, true believers will be confessing and turning away from sin, while false believers will not.*
4. Genuine love for other believers (1 John 3:14-15) *Do you have genuine love for other believers? God's Spirit pours out God's love into the hearts of God's children.*
5. The discipline of God your Father (1 John 3:1; Hebrews 12:7-8, 11) *Even as a loving earthly father disciplines his children, God promises to discipline His children when they get out of line.*
6. The presence of God's Holy Spirit (1 John 3:24; Romans 8:16; Gal. 5:22) *If you are a true believer, then God's Spirit is in you and will testify with your spirit that you are a child of God.*

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7. Faith in Jesus alone for salvation (and not yourself) (1 John 5:12-13; Philippians 3:9)
Having you been trusting in Jesus alone for your salvation, or trusting yourself or your church?

Horizontal: Unity vs. Division

- Imagine how powerful unity can be for people who worship and obey the God of the universe.
- United prayer is powerful.
- Removing bitterness toward others and choosing to forgive is so crucial.
- Any pride or selfishness should be seen as an enemy of unified prayer.
- United is attractive and beautiful! When people see unity, they see purpose, love, and power!
- God’s blessings fall when believers dwell together in unity. God moves when we rid our hearts of any sin that holds us back and seek His face together. (Mark: 24-26)

Evening Discussion

1. How is Jesus Christ and His death on the cross a key to answered prayer?
2. What did the “Seven Indicators of True Salvation” mean to you?
3. How did it affect your thinking about your relationship with God?
4. How does bitterness hinder our churches and our prayer lives?
5. How is love the “perfect bond of unity” (Col. 3:14)?
6. What does it mean to pray in agreement?

Effective Takeaways

- Oh, that God would unify us again and bring a fresh revival to our land!