God-Approved Unity (Psalm 133:1)

Tony Mauck

INTRODUCTION

- Unity is a wonderful thing. God wants unity.
- Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity.
- We need to be people who are of one heart and one soul.

1 Unity Must Be Accomplished on God's Terms

Matthew 7:13–14; Matthew 7:15; Matthew 7:21–23

- Unity must be accomplished on God's terms. Not my terms or any terms that we develop.
- What good is unity if the congregation has been repulsed from fellowship with God.
- Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction.
- What good is unity if we are embracing those that are on a path toward destruction.
- The desire to incorporate the broad way into the narrow way is a very popular idea today. But the narrow way is what God defines.

2 Rick Ashley and His Chairs

- That's what we've done for 150 years. We get to pick and choose when we want to enforce silence and when we want to ignore it.
- Who gets to decide what is unauthorized and what is expedient? I want to tell you we all need to be deciding.
- Each chair, as you move across, has problems with all the previous chairs.
- Is unity only to be achieved by surrendering to the conclusion of the most narrow-minded among us.

3 Generic and Specific Authority

1 Peter 4:11; Philippians 4:9

- We can understand what God wants us to do.
- If any man speak, let him speak as it were, the oracles or utterances of God.
- Unless he has commanded us specifically, unless he has given us an approved example or implied, certain things should result in our practice, necessary implication or inference. That's our way of knowing God's will.
- All authority, whether it be command, example, or inference, all authority has general and specific elements, or generic and specific elements.
- The more specific it is, the fewer choices that you have, the more general it is, the more choices that you have.

4 More Chairs: You Have to Draw Lines Somewhere

Galatians 5:20; 1 Corinthians 1:10

- He started with instrumental music, but I would like to go even a little more to the left.
- We could extend this chair thing out a hundred chairs or more. You have to draw lines somewhere.
- Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.
- Why is it that the left always expects and yea demands that those on the right compromise?
- Speak the same thing, be of the same mind and of the same judgment. Unity is possible.

5 How Can We Come Together?

Ephesians 4:1–3

- Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.
- We've got to be diligent. We're going to have to work hard. It's not going to come easily.
- Unity is going to be found with, first of all, careful and disciplined thought. It is going to require honest self-examination.
- Courageous, total submission to all the will of God. And I've got to tell you, we cannot compromise that pursuit.

THE CHALLENGE

Is there someone in this audience tonight, like Hayden this morning, who needs to submit to the will of God and embrace salvation while there's time and opportunity?

MY NOTES