

As members of FBC, we are embarking on an exciting journey into the future of our church as we launch our North campus capital campaign. We have all heard stories of congregations who split over how to build or remodel, and I would agree with all of you that church splits are tragic. Today, as we pray and look forward to Big Offering Sunday, I want to focus on unity.

The strength of being unified is that together we can do much, but separated we can accomplish little. A misunderstanding about oneness in Christ is that unity is conformity. You all have individual talents, thoughts, and opinions which makes you unique. As followers of Christ; however, we understand our faith in Jesus allows our differences to melt away under the light of Christ's presence to join together to pursue His kingdom agenda. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 that while there are many parts, there is only one body. God's call for unity is not to become part of the body, but to understand you are already part of the body because of your faith in Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ unifies us.

So how do we respond when we do not agree? Romans 5:10 instructs believers on how to behave. Jesus models that while we were all in disharmony with Him, He pursues us in love. When we disagree with one another, Jesus' solution to our problem is not to fight with one another, but to love each other all the more.

The necessity of unity is so significant that Jesus indicates in John 17:23 that Christian unity serves as proof of the validity of Jesus as the Christ. This is a time when our unity centered on Jesus must be paramount. FBC Bellville cannot fight the devil if we are fighting amongst ourselves. May each of us be extra committed to prioritizing our unity as our church embarks on advancing God's kingdom in Austin County. In 1 Corinthians 1, Paul implores the Corinthian church to not allow any divisions in their congregation, and as pastor of FBC Bellville, I implore you, as well as myself, to be committed to unity. Satan would love for us to take our eyes off of Jesus and His mission. Now is when we can come together and accomplish something great together that proclaims to our community, look at how we love, look to our great God.

PRAYER FOCUS:

1. God how can I love others around me better?
2. Show me how I can be a unifier and not a divider?
3. God, reveal to me any places where I have harbored hurts and allow me to forgive.
4. Pray that God will help our church become an even closer family during this time.