

HOW JESUS AT THE CENTER CHANGES EVERYTHING

Kingdom Justice

Pastor Harold Long

May 30, 2021

Memory Verse: John 17:22 (CEB) ²² *I've given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be **one** just as we are **one**.*

"Unity without the gospel is a worthless unity; it is the very unity of hell." ~ J.C. Ryle

Next Six Day Challenge (Daily Readings)

(Centered on Kingdom Justice and Unity)

Monday: Psalm 133:1 / *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!*

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 13:11 / **11** Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

Wednesday: Galatians 3:38 / **28** There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Thursday: Philippians 2:2 / **2** then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Friday: Colossians 3:14 / **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Saturday: Romans 14:19 / **19** Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Notes

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Notes

1. It's striking that God didn't grant authority to _____, _____, _____, or anything that religion _____ itself in controlling to give eternal life, but that authority to give eternal life rests in God's son — Jesus himself.
2. To understand how critical keeping Jesus at the center is to our faith journey and our _____ to recognize _____ in _____, we need to understand how a _____ differs from other paradigms more familiar in the church today. This example would include the bounded-set method, with clear lines defining who is in or out. The fuzzy, "everything is ok" approach.
3. Jesus was right at the center of their lives and their community. It was Jesus at the _____ that made the difference. It was Jesus that enabled them to see past their differences and see each other through his eyes.
4. Instead of adopting a bounded approach — where cohesion is maintained by establishing rules and boundaries to define us and keep our "others" out — we place _____ at the center and set our _____ towards Him.
5. Instead of adopting a fuzzy approach — where anybody is entitled to their view and their way of life — we teach and practice the _____ of Jesus and his _____ way above all else, which leads to a giving up of personal prerogatives and choices so that embracing the other is not only possible but joyfully done.
6. To a _____ world, we offer nothing as a _____ church. God calls on us to be united in Christ, pointing towards Christ. We believe that in these difficult and divisive days, unity is a prophetic stance for our time.
7. If we want to be more _____ as a church, making space for each other and our "other" as we all orient ourselves towards Jesus, then we need to make Jesus _____ at the center. This perspective lets us see each other through the central lens of Jesus and see Jesus through each other. It invites us to be _____ and _____ by each other and to first and foremost love each other.

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