The Point? Even though the church will encounter problems, we are called to maintain ***homothumadon***, “one mind and one passion“ (see also Ephesians 4:3).

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Here are several action points for you to ponder this week that can help us maintain a spirit of unity:

**-Abandon yourself to the Holy Spirit.** Where the Spirit is…is unity. Notice the connection between the Spirit’s infilling and inebriation @ Acts 2:13 and Ephesians 5:18. The Holy Spirit must take over of our lives like alcohol controls a drunk man.

 **-Humbly seek the Mind of Christ.** Read Philippians 2:1-11. Paul assures us that there is a controlling organism within our midst appointed to broker our unity. This is, I believe, the very real presence of the Holy Spirit who knows how to gather, to organize, to inspire the united body of Christ. We are to humble ourselves under it.

 **-Develop our unique gifting within the Body of Christ.**  At Ephesians 4:1-16, Paul reminds us that diverse spiritual gifts were given by the Lord in order that we might attain unity. We must know where we fit.

 **-Pursue authentic *koinonea* with other believers.** Acts 4:42-47, reveals the passionate intimacy of the early church who studied scripture, connected with the “fellowship,“ took communion, and prayed.

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Find a small group this week to process this week’s message & have a great week. We love you.

Jay and Mona

“A Powerful Witness…Is Church Unity” Pastor Jay Cave

 Text: Acts 2:1-11 02/08/15 BPCC St. Pete

 Sermon Notes:

For Your Consideration:

 It is a good idea to look at both Genesis 11 and Acts 2 for a deeper understanding of today’s sermon. The story of the ***Tower of Babel*** is fascinating. Some years after the flood, we find that the whole earth still had “one language and the same words” (Gen. 11:1, ESV). Unfortunately, this unified humanity would use all the resources at their disposal to “establish a city that is the antithesis of what God intended when he created the world. The tower is a symbol of human autonomy, and the city builders see themselves as determining and establishing their own destiny without any reference to the Lord. “[[1]](#footnote-1) God thwarts the effort and confuses their speech. The world experiences division, chaos and disorder.

 Pentecost, or Acts 2, is the exact opposite. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the church is able to unify people of different languages. The 120 people gathered in Jerusalem were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking a language that was understood by “devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language” (Acts 2: 5,6).

**Thus, the church at the very inception was a miracle of unity.** I am totally proud of the way we see this unity occurring at Bay Point as we L.E.A.D. our DIVERSE Community to Christ. Our ethnic, generational, economic, educational diversity is the confirmation that the Holy Spirit is thick among us.

**This unity is the key to our power.** At Babel, God removed power from the self-righteous people. At Pentecost it was restored. Quite frankly, this is why we can tolerate most things in our church other than a *spirit of division.* Division destroys power.

There is an interesting word at Acts 2:1. Although the ESV says the church was “all together,” the actual meaning is deeper. ***Homothumadon*** insinuates “one mind and one passion.” Luke uses it 10 times in the book of Acts:

*Acts 2:1: when the 120 believers gathered together in Jerusalem, they were of “one mind and one passion.”*

*Acts 2:42: when the church grew to 3000, believers met in homes with “one mind and one passion.”*

*Acts 4:24: when Peter and John were put in prison: the church prayed with “one mind and one passion.”*

*Acts 5:12: after the church expelled Ananais and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit, the church experienced a return to “one mind and one passion”*

*Acts 8:6: after the martyrdom of Stephen, scattered believers listened to the preaching of Phillip “with one mind and one passion.”*

*Acts 15:25: when a group from within the church tried to complicate the spread of the gospel to the Gentiles, the apostle’s responded with “one mind and one passion” (@ the Jerusalem Counsel).*

*(over)*

1. ESV Study Bible @ Genesis 11:1-9. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)