

Unite Us
Dangerous Prayers – Part 5 of 5
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Statistics on Church Conflict

- Over the last 2 years, 25% of US churches had conflict that resulted in people leaving
- 1,500 pastors leave the church every month because of conflict, burnout or moral failure
- Every year more than 19,000 congregations experience major conflict.
- During the last 5 years, 75% of churches in America have experienced conflict
- 25% indicated the conflict was severe enough to permanently impact church life

**Duke University's National Congregations Study 2006-2007;
David A. Roozen, American Congregations 2008, Cooperative Congregational Studies**

Unity fuels the mission God has given us (John 17)

John 17:20-21, 23b “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²³ ...so that they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. NIV84

Next slide: I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message

Next slide: May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me

Next slide: ...to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. NIV84

Praying “unite us” is a danger to my personal preferences (Romans 15:1-2, 5-6)

Romans 15:1-2 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. NIV84

Prayer ignites the power of God in my life

The Importance of Praying: Unite Us

1. We need each other (Romans 12:4-5)

Romans 12:4-5 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. NIV84

2. The world will see God's love (Romans 15:5-7)

Romans 15: 5-7 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. NIV84

Next slide: give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus

Next slide: Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you

Next slide: in order to bring praise to God.

My Next Step Today is To:

- ☐ Let go of _____ for the sake of mission and ask God to bring unity
- ☐ Pray for a spirit of unity at CIV 3x this week using John 17 and Romans 15 as a guide