

# United We Stand

And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

Luke 9:22 (NIV)

...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 16:18 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Acts 1:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)

<sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, 'The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' <sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 2:32-39 (NIV)

## **Jesus is Lord. (Acts 2:36)**

We are united on this.

## **The Church is God's family. (Acts 2:37-39)**

We are committed to each other.

## **The Bible is God's word that directs our beliefs and actions.**

We are directed by God's truth.

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke

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bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

**Because Jesus loves us, we are devoted to Him, His church, His truth, and His mission.**

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

**When we are devoted, we are undivided.**

**United we stand that Jesus is Lord, His church is our family, and He is truth.**

## MY NOTES:



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## TEACHING SUMMARY:

Differences can be divisive when there is not a unity on something that is greater. When God established the family of God through Jesus' life, death, and the Holy Spirit's power to raise Jesus back to life, the church was given the greatest truth on which they were to be united.

Because Jesus is Lord, we see the church as God's family, and we see scripture as God's truth. These have united the church since Jesus came back to life.

When our differences stick out, we have a choice to make. We can either find our united ground or we can focus and fight on our differences. The church thrives when we are devoted to Jesus being Lord. We are divided when Jesus is not the center of our lives. The church is healthy when we are devoted to loving each other. We hurt when we are divided against each other. The church is guided when scripture directs our beliefs and actions. We drift from truth when scripture doesn't guide us. The church is effective when Jesus' mission becomes our mission. The church is impotent when our mission trumps Jesus' mission.

## TALK-IT-OVER:

What differences do you see becoming divisive in the Big C church? What differences do you see becoming divisive in this local church? Why do differences feel personal?

How does Jesus being Lord bring unity to the local church?

How should our view of other Christians change when we see each other as the Family of God?

What happens when scripture doesn't guide our beliefs and actions?

What is one next you can take today?

## DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) Ephesians 1:18-23; Matthew 28:18-20

Day 2) John 14:15-17; 14:25-27

Day 3) Ephesians 2:19-22

Day 4) John 13:34-35

Day 5) John 15:9-12

Day 6) Acts 2:22-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4