

# Radically different

## Radical Community

Matt Garvin ~ May 8, 2016

\_\_\_\_\_ are Paul's first concern for the church.

The unity of the church is the means by which the manifold wisdom of God is being displayed to the universe. The church is... the pilot project of God's purposes, and his people are the expression of this unity that displays to the universe his final goal.

Peter O'Brien - Pillar Ephesians Commentary

### Jesus and Paul had the same vision

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

John 13:34-35 NIV

*"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 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. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."*

John 17:20-23 NIV

When people enter community, especially from a place of loneliness in a big city or from a place of aggression and rejection, they find the warmth and the love exhilarating. This permits them to start lifting their masks and barriers and become vulnerable. They may enter into a time of communion and great joy.

But then too, as they lift their masks and become vulnerable, they discover that community can be a terrible place, because it is a place of relationship; it is the revelation of our wounded emotions and of how painful it can be to live with others, especially with some people. It's so much easier to live with books and objects, television, or dogs and cats! It is so much easier to live alone and just do things for others, when one feels like it.

Jean Vanier - Community and Growth

### The \_\_\_\_\_ of Unity

- We are different Ephesians 2:10
- We are limited to our own understanding Ephesians 3:19
- We are led astray by the evil trinity  
(The World, the Flesh and the Devil) Ephesians 2:1-3

### The Easier Options

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

To live in a manner which mars the unity of the Spirit is to do despite to the gracious reconciling work of Christ. It is tantamount to saying that his sacrificial death by which relationships with God and others have been restored, along with the resulting freedom of access to the Father, are of no real consequence to us!

Peter O'Brien - Pillar Commentary on Ephesians

***Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.***

Ephesians 4:2 NIV

***Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.***

Ephesians 4:3 NIV

As the readers heed the apostolic injunction to bend every effort so as to maintain their oneness in the local congregation(s) as well as in their wider relationships with other believers, the peace which Christ has won and which binds Jews and Gentiles together into the one people of God will be increasingly evident in their lives.

Peter O'Brien - Pillar Commentary on Ephesians

### **Where is unity to happen?**

*At the gathering we call "church"  
and between all churches*

*and in the places where we*

*live, learn, work and play...*

To keep this unity must mean to maintain it visibly. If the unity of the Spirit is real, it must be transparently evident, and believers have a responsibility before God to make sure that this is so.

Peter O'Brien - Pillar Commentary on Ephesians

***There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.***

Ephesians 4:4-6 NIV



### **2016 PRAYER GOALS**

1. To see a 20% increase in people taking intentional next steps in their apprenticeship journey.
2. To see God provide miraculous provision for our land levies.
3. To see a church plant launch team established.

### **PRAYER FOR FORT MCMURRAY**

We invite you all to join with us in a moment of prayer to surround the entire Wood Buffalo region at this time - realizing in the coming days there will be endless opportunities for our church to be the 'hands and feet' of Jesus in meeting practical and spiritual needs of those who call Fort McMurray home.

Parents talk to your teens about what we learned today  
- check out the MERGE page on the website @ [staalliance.org](http://staalliance.org) for questions