

INDIVIDUAL MESSAGE: Rock of Hope 10th Anniversary

Text:

TITLE: Unity and Harmony

Rock of Hope 10 YEARS

Thanks to those who have preceded us.

In 1956 a young denomination, founded in the Pacific NW, began to launch churches throughout the region. The Northwest Conservative Baptists saw a need to start a church in the blossoming area of Edmonds

In 1960 a strong effort to begin new congregations in the NW saw church planting rise by the Southern Baptist Convention. A gifted evangelist with a pastor's heart felt called to start a church in Edmonds.

I want to honor those who went before us:

- Esperance
 - Wright Norton
 - Malleon
 - Ralph Young
 - Greg Barnett
 - Steve Hall
 - Ken Oliver
 - John Matson

- Olympic
 - Minnis
 - Dan Brandel
 - Jim Ingram
 - David Foster

Not only those pastors, but to all the people who were faithful throughout the decades to be the church and to build the church, we give thanks. Thank you Lord

Unity / Unison

One Melody: The Song of God's Love and Forgiveness.

- Sing the same song – the melody
- Variations on a theme

One Accord: The Sound of the Body to walk in agreement.

- Orchestration - Diverse Instruments
- Choral - Diverse voices – tone and range, parts
- Be in the same key.... Be in tune

One Conductor: The Savior who is the head of the Church.

- It is Christ who is the head

We came together because of that which unites us, namely the Gospel and we work together because each of us understands and appreciates our gifts, callings and roles.

Put it another way, we are all singing the same song, but we each are singing our respective parts thus making beautiful music together to the Glory of the Lord.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT UNITY?

- **IT COMES FROM GOD**

Rom. 15:5 - May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ...

- **IT IS IMPORTANT**

Col. 3:14 - And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

- **IT CALLS FOR EFFORT**

Eph. 4:3 - Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

- **IT HAS AN INNER PURPOSE**

Eph. 4:13 - *...until we all reach **unity** in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

- **IT HAS OUTER PURPOSE**

John 17:23 - *I in them and you in me. May 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.*

Pastor John Matson

Harmony Builds the Church, the Body of Christ

1Cor. 12:27 - *You are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

1. **Harmony in Purpose:** Each Body part has its own purpose

1Cor. 12:19 - *If they were all one part, where would the body be?*

Q: Do you know the purpose for which God created you?

2. **Harmony in Function:** Each Body part is designed for teamwork

1Pet. 3:8 - *Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.*

Q: Do you belong to a local body where you can minister and be ministered to?

3. **Harmony in Appreciation:** Each Body part requires love & valuing

1Cor. 12:31 - *You keep trying to get "the greater gifts". Ha! I will show you the best way: love.*

Q: Do you rejoice in the giftedness of each member of your local body?

4. **Harmony in Humility:** Each part is of equal value to the other Body parts

1Cor. 12:24b,25 - *But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*

Q: Do you pray faithfully that each member would fulfill his/her purpose?

5. **Harmony in Development:** Each part builds up itself and others

Eph. 4:16 - *From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

Lucy Gleeson – Partner Model (see attachment)