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January | 2014

A New Revelation of Unity by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

Pastor Darren preached a powerful message last Sunday evening on John 17:20-26. About mid way through his message, he proclaimed that he loved Jesus so much that he was willing to die for Jesus. He exclaimed that Jesus means everything to him and if he had to lay down his life for Jesus, he would gladly do it.

As he said that, God revealed something that I had never seen in this passage before. John 17 is Jesus' prayer to the Father in Heaven as He is preparing to be arrested. In fact in the next chapter, John 18, Jesus is betrayed and arrested. The first audience to read this chapter written by the apostle "John" were 1st Century Christians who were in the midst of a great persecution. The people that Jesus was talking about in this 17th chapter of John were those who loved Him and God so much that many of them were martyred for their faith.

The revelation that God challenged me with was this. Verse 21 says, "I pray that

they will all be one, just as you and I are one – as you are in me, Father, and I am in you.

And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me." This is a prayer for the unity of God's Church to be in the SAME kind of UNITY that Jesus and the Father were in!!! Wow!!! The same kind of UNITY that JESUS and the FATHER had and are also currently in. This UNITY was based on the deepest kind of commitment that anyone could possibly have. This was a commitment that they would be true to even if it cost them everything. This was a commitment that Jesus gave everything to, even his earthly life. This was a same kind of deep commitment that those Jesus was talking about in this chapter also had, because many of them would give their lives in martyrdom. This was also the same kind of commitment that the 1st readers would also have as they also would give their lives in martyrdom. This is the same kind of deep and all encompassing commitment that binds the people in the 3rd World Countries that we studied about as we went through T4T. This is the kind of deep all encompassing commitments that all of us in Valley Isle Fellowship need to develop and develop very quickly.

Prior to having to give up their lives, look at what they were doing. All of these people, including Jesus, were living lives that unashamedly and visibly displayed an all-consuming love for God.

They were so in love with the Lord God that they were willing to go anywhere, do anything, and say anything that the Lord desired of them.

The result of this kind of living for many of these followers of Jesus, was ridicule and persecution. Many of them were used and abused, but because of their love for Jesus and their desire to be always pleasing to Him they would not respond to these abuses with the natural reactions of the world. They were transformed into "followers of Christ" and so they responded in the same ways that Jesus did.

They must have realized that they were not citizens of this world, but that they were citizens of Heaven. This world was not their home, so to be absent from the body meant to be at home with the Lord. Death was not something to be feared and avoided. They could rise above death itself. Hear the victory cry of the Apostle Paul as he writes in **1 Corinthians 15:54-58 (HCSB):**

⁵⁴When this corruptible is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: Death has been swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? ⁵⁶Now the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! ⁵⁸Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling

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TODAY'S SERMON
Gospel-Centered

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

1. The gospel becomes our _____ in seeing the _____.(vs. 16a)
2. Jesus is at the _____ of our everyday _____. (vs.16b)
3. Jesus is at the _____ because we are new _____. (17)
 - a. Our _____ lenses have _____ away.
 - b. Our _____ rhythms of life _____ away.
4. The power of the gospel will be fleshed out in _____ and _____ reconciliation. (vs.18-19)
5. We have been given the privilege to _____ loudly “be reconciled to God” (vs.20)
6. The powerful truth of the gospel: _____ of sin and Jesus’ _____.

A new reality: “A Christian experiences a growing personal reliance on the gospel that protects him from depending on his own religious performance and being seduced and overwhelmed by idols.” – Joe Thorn

How can you tell this is taking root in you?

1. _____ (*Hebrews 3:14, 4:16*) *
2. _____ (*Hebrews 7:25, 10:22, James 4:8*)*
3. _____ (*2 Cor. 3:18, 1 Thess. 5:23, 2 Thess. 2:13*)*
4. _____ (*Hebrews 3:21, 13, 10:25, 2 Tim. 3:16, 17*) *

How can you tell it is taking root in our church?

1. *The gospel is the _____ that propels its mission. ***
2. *The gospel is the _____ through which to view the world and the people and the things in it. ***
3. *The gospel is the _____ the church is called to teach. ***

* Joe Thorn <http://www.joethorn.net/blog/2009/08/11/gospel-centered>

** Joel Lindsey <http://www.scribd.com/doc/47205078/What-Is-a-Gospel-Centered-Missional-Church->

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in the Lord's work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

You see, because of this kind of loving and victorious living that they were already experiencing, two things must be noted. First, the trials and tribulations of life, including the ridicule, discrimination, and persecution that they were experiencing were acceptable challenges to face. This was because they were facing these tribulations because of their love for Jesus and they knew that He would never leave or forsake them. Second, when the threat of death (martyrdom) came upon them, this fear could not conquer and defeat them. They were so in love with the Lord Jesus and so committed to Him that they were willing to lay down their lives for Him as a living sacrifice to Him. You see,

they had the assurance of their citizenship being secure in Heaven. Therefore, they could even let their death bring glory and honor to the Lord Jesus Christ. Look at the account of Jesus' death in Mark 15. Verse 39 says, "When the Roman officer who stood facing Him saw how He died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God." When Christians were martyred for their love and commitment to Jesus Christ, it did not kill the faith but it empowered the faith and it still is happening today.

The last half of John 17:21 says, "And may they be in Us so that the world will believe you sent me." The Lord revealed to me that the world will believe in Him when they see how we as Christians face the adversities and

tribulations of life, even martyrdom itself. Therefore the trials and tribulations that we face because of our love and commitment to Jesus Christ are really opportunities to show to the world Jesus Christ is for real and that He is the only hope that we can really trust in.

Therefore, Valley Isle Fellowship, let's be united in our deep love and commitment to Jesus Christ, even if it will cost our earthly lives. We don't have to worry or fret because our citizenship is secure in Heaven and our lives need to be a sign post pointing as many others as possible to Jesus.

God bless you all!
Stephen Kaneshiro

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Let Your Life, Be God's Plans... *by Pastor Darren Sarmiento*

¹³Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town, stay there a year, conduct business, and make money." ¹⁴You do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead you should say, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live—and do this or that." ¹⁶But you boast about your proud intentions. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷Therefore, anyone who knows what is right but fails to do it is guilty of sin. James 4:13-17 ISV

In the book of James there were many things going on that was causing divisions among the believers and it was leading them to sin. One of it was people who were boasting what they were

going to do. They were prideful letting people know that they were in control of their lives because of what they can do or have done. James puts them in their place by saying, "What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." Man's plans are always tentative. His plans are not his own. Time is not his own. In fact, life is not his own. Believers need this godly perspective on their earthly sojourn. Among other things, it blasts boasting right out of the selfish, sinful pride in the human heart from which it emerged.

James was calling for each believer to live in harmony with one another and

that will glorify God. If every one of us lives for each other, than we won't be at each other's throat thinking I know better than you. It is God who knows all things and according to James everything we do should always include thinking of others, and especially consulting God with what he wants us to do. Let your life, be God's plans and he will unite us as one in Christ. We always say that it's all about HIM. So then, let's make it personal to ourselves and let's start to pray and say, "MY LIFE will always be about You, LORD!" Let's do it literally and intentionally and see how God directs our thoughts, actions and motives. May the world come to see it as being Christ-like.

Praying for Valley Isle Fellowship *by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro*

Tonight I will preach on the subject, “A Prayer for Valley Isle Fellowship.” The essence of this message will come from The Great Commandment and The Great Commission. Tonight I will focus on why this is the central prayer for Valley Isle Fellowship that God has burdened my heart with. In this article I want to share with you the dream I have for Valley Isle Fellowship once this prayer is answered.

However, before answering this prayer, I believe God is waiting on us to simply love and obey Him as individuals and then He can bless us as a cooperative body (VIF). Therefore, we as individuals need to begin being ALL that God has called us to be.

Once all of this happens, then I believe my dream will begin to be fulfilled. I have a dream of seeing Christians and the Church come alive. Christians and Churches living in complete harmony with all of the desires that the Lord has for each one of us and especially for VIF.

This dream would be lived out in living HD color and clarity. It would look like this:

- ☺ Every Christian boldly and joyfully sharing their love for Jesus with everyone.
- ☺ Many people (men, women, and children) accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord & Savior.
- ☺ Every Christian discipling & mentoring every new Christian into a mature love & faith in Jesus Christ.
- ☺ Every new Christian being so excited and joyous that their love for Jesus becomes contagious and all of their friends and family start to become Christians too.
- ☺ Every neighborhood begins to be transformed because massive numbers of people in each neighborhood gets marvelously and wonderfully saved and transformed.
- ☺ Many places of work (offices, stores, classrooms, etc.) are transformed into places of great joy and places great integrity because of the transforming power of the love of and for Jesus Christ.
- ☺ Marriages that were falling apart are restored because of JESUS.
- ☺ Children who were once in rebellion become fountains of living water because their love for Jesus cannot be contained.
- ☺ Maui County begins to be transformed to “Heaven on Earth” because massive numbers of people are being eternally changed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

You might think that I’m crazy and a wild dreamer, but that is what I really believe can and will happen once the Lord answers my prayer for Valley Isle Fellowship. I am praying for Valley Isle Fellowship to become alive through the love and grace of Jesus Christ and the proof of that will be through The Great Commandment and The Great Commission coming alive within all of the people of Valley Isle Fellowship.

Would you like to see that take place? Would you like to be a part of a transformation like that? Would you like to get crazy and dream wild dreams like me? Then I would ask that you pray along with me this same prayer. If you would like to hear more details of why this has become my central pray, come tonight a listen to my message and the convictions that God has burdened me with. God bless you all!

A Prayer for Valley Isle Fellowship

Matthew 22:37-40 & Matthew 28:18-20

I. The _____ Mission of all churches:

A. First of all to _____ the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, and mind.

B. The Second is to _____ our neighbors as we love ourselves.

C. The Third is to _____ all people and nations.

II. The State of _____

A. Loving Jesus with all that is within us means we are willing to _____ for Him – we are _____.

B. Loving our neighbors means we willingly _____ both non-Christians and Christians before our selves – we are _____.

C. _____ all people – most of VIF actually is _____ from this command.

III. The Prayer for Valley Isle Fellowship

A. That this prayer be _____, that we first do the _____.

B. Once the _____ have been accomplished, imagine what _____ and _____ happen.

C. The problem – being _____ by _____ that deal with _____ but not _____ issues.

G-Force:

G-Force, a ministry to the children of our church in grades 2-5 under the direction of Mrs. Bert Drayson, will be meeting **this Saturday, Jan. 18th, from 9-12 noon** in the Annex.

Lord's Supper:

January 26th will be the next time that we observe the Lord's Supper. This year we will be observing this ordinance on the last Sunday of March, May, July, September, and November.

Politics & the Church:

Pastor Stephen will continue to study and keep aware of political issues that should be of concern to all people of faith in Jesus Christ. He has setup a new email address, snkaneshiro@gmail.com. Send him an email at this address and he will send you information that he receives.

Needed: Volunteers

We are in need of people to volunteer to clean our church facilities on High Street. Tasks include cleaning of 4 bathrooms, vacuuming, sweeping and mopping of floors and emptying of trash. If you can help, we ask that you sign up on the back table. We are asking that this work be done on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday of the week that you are able to volunteer. If 3 people were to volunteer each week, it would take only about an hour or so to complete. By joining together in this task, we can have fellowship, fun, and bring glory and honor to the Lord. Please pray about this need.



Child Care Schedule
Today - January 12, 2014

Team 5:

Shayna Manlapao, Chavelle Moniz, Dayna Asuncion,
Seth Yamada, Wayne Sniffen

Next Week - January 19**Team 1:**

Corey Egami, Donna Nozaki, Elijah Douglas,
Christian Motonaga

Valley Isle Fellowship 2014 Calendar

January:

- 12 AM Preaching – *Pastor Jeremy*
Noon – VIF Trustees' Meeting
PM Preaching – *Pastor Stephen*
- 18 9 AM – G-Force (Annex)
- 19 AM Preaching – *Pastor Darren*
Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
PM Preaching – *Pastor Jeremy*
- 20 Martin Luther King - Holiday (*church office closed*)
Surf Ministry Outing
- 23 MCBA Executive Board Meeting
- 26 AM Preaching – *Pastor Stephen*
AM –The Lord's Supper
PM Preaching – *Pastor Darren*



January 2014:

- 12 AM – *Pastor Jeremy* – A Year of Gospel Centered Commitment
PM – *Pastor Stephen* – A Prayer for Valley Isle Fellowship
- 19 AM – *Pastor Darren* – A Year of Loving Obedience to Jesus Christ
PM – *Pastor Jeremy* – Dedicated to Knowing The Word
- 26 AM – *Pastor Stephen* – Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus
PM – *Pastor Stephen* – Dedicated to Living the Word

NOTE: Starting in February, we will return to the Gospel of John during the Morning Worship Services. During the Evening Worship Services, we will begin a new Series on What are our Theological beliefs. We will be going through the Baptist Faith and Message that is written into Valley Isle Fellowship's Constitution and By-Laws.

February 2014:

- 2 AM – *Pastor Jeremy* – John 8:31-59
PM – *Pastor Stephen* – The Scriptures (BFM)
- 9 AM – *Pastor Darren* – John 9:1-34
PM – *Pastor Jeremy* – God (BFM)
- 16 AM – *Pastor Stephen* – John 9:35-41
PM – *Pastor Darren* – Salvation (BFM)
- 23 AM – *Pastor Jeremy* – John 10:1-21
PM – *Pastor Stephen* – God's Purpose of Grace (BFM)

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