



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

John 17:21-23

These were the great words of our Lord’s Prayer. It was a powerful prayer uttered from Jesus’ heart. But how do we embrace them in a world full of division? We are plagued by prejudice, angry spirits, pride, selfishness, hatred, hurts, and just mean-spirited people. Yet with all of our flaws, we have the wonderful blessing to live in a country where one of our greatest values is our freedom. Young men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice for its protection. What does freedom mean during these times?

A few days ago, we saw what a challenge it is to preserve this great virtue. This freedom includes free speech. President Trump exercised his right to speak out when he called on NFL owners to release players who bowed on one knee during the national anthem. The President also called on fans to boycott the National Football League until the players’ actions stopped.

The controversy has alienated Americans on both sides of the issue, widening an already-broad divide. Whether you agree with either side or both, the truth of the matter is everyone involved is exercising their right to free speech. The purpose of this article is not to persuade you to take a side. I understand even as you read this article, some of you have already taken a side. The objective is to direct every Christian to unite and fall, not just on one knee but on both knees, before a holy and righteous God who can direct our hearts toward unity.

What Does Unity in Christ Look Like Today?

We live in a time of genocides where differences in ideas have led to the deaths of millions at the hands of those who differ. We live in a country where 9 am to 12 pm on Sunday is the most segregated time in the week because few people attend services with others of a different color. In some communities, children have little hope of seeing their twenty-first birthday. In many families, there are relatives who do not speak to each

other.

Christ Prays for Unity!

And yet Christ prayed for unity. An omniscient God would not know that we would be divided by denominationalism, the color of our skin, and the differences in our views without providing a way for us to unite. Would the God who created both the heavens and the earth be unable to see the fulfillment of this prayer among believers? I think not! This doesn’t mean that we will all have the same favorite color, drive the same car, or even live in the same neighborhood. But there is a greater work going on!


We Are All Redeemed by the Same Blood!

As Christians, we are all redeemed by the same blood, and will go to the same Heaven. We are all a part of the same heavenly family. We disagree, but do not have to become disagreeable. We have different-shaded skin, but all have red-flowing blood — not just because of human biology, but because of a blood transfusion that took place on Calvary through the saving blood of Jesus Christ. Scripture bears witness that even amidst our differences, we can be unified by the Spirit of our Lord (Acts 4:32-35; 1 Corinthians 12:4-31; Ephesians 2:13-22; 4:3-7; Romans 12:4-8, 16-21)! Along with the Lord’s Prayer, we find the exhortation to love one another, to bear one another’s burdens, and to study the things that make for peace, where-with we may edify one another (Romans 14:17-19).

If you’re like me, you’ve been hurt by others. You’ve found it so much easier to migrate to people who are less hurtful. You may even find it less threatening to surround yourself with others who always agree with you, and even look a lot like you! But when a blood transfusion is given, its sole purpose is to give life so that all the members of a body can function together. In a like manner, through the transfusion of Jesus’ blood at Calvary, those of us in the Body of Christ can function like a healthy body!

- Dr. L.W. Edwards

The fear of man bringeth a snare, but he that trusteth in the LORD shall be safe. Proverbs 29:25

 In January 12, 1997, two Swiss men, Bertrand Piccard and Wim Verstraeten, set off on their quest to circle the earth in a hot air balloon. Their \$1.5 million balloon, the *Breitling Orbiter*, had been outfitted with solar panels and a pressurized, airtight capsule which would allow the pilots to cruise through jet streams at 200 mph.

According to Richard Conniff of *National Geographic*, soon after liftoff, odorous kerosene fumes filled the pressurized cabin. Bertrand and Wim sent a panicked email to their control center, "Kerosene's coming through each pipe on both inside tanks and we cannot tighten them anymore. It is a nightmare. . . . Answer quick."

The control center advised the pilots to reduce their altitude, open the capsule, and hold on until they reached the coast of Algeria. Overwhelmed by the exhaust fumes, the adventurers touched down in the Mediterranean Sea.

When Bertrand and Wim discovered what had caused the kerosene leak, you can imagine they smacked their palms on their foreheads in disgust. (At least, that's what I would have done under the circumstances.) The tiny culprit which ruined the \$1.5 million balloon and spoiled the record-setting excursion was a failed clamp, worth \$1.16.

Life is a lot like the *Breitling Orbiter*. We outfit it with the grandest of plans and overlay it with the best of intentions. Most of us spend the first 18 years of our lives trying to get the balloon off the ground. By the time we have reached adulthood, the airship has risen into the clouds, heading for the course we have carefully charted. But sometimes the best of preparations are waylaid by internal leaks which endanger our safety and jettison our goals. One of the most insidious enemies we have to grapple with is the fear of man.

You won't find a person who struggles with the fear of man distinguished by a mark on her forehead. On the outside, she looks like the average person. She may even look better than average, hip, attractive, professional, poised, confident. But on the inside she is in turmoil. If you saw the mental wheels which churned inside her head as she made decisions and interacted with others, you'd see a pattern of putting what others think above the best choice. You'd see a life marked by anxiety and a lack of self-initiative and backbone.

In his book, *Respectable Sins*, Jerry Bridges defines anxiety as the opposite of trust in God. He applies it to events and circumstances where the outcome is uncertain or beyond our control. Though there are certainly many everyday events and circumstances beyond our control, perhaps nothing is as unpredictable as . . . [>>> Keep Reading](#)



Please join Bibleway in praying for Project If Life, a team of three young women running and biking over 3,000 miles to raise awareness for the pro-life movement. The team will finish its journey on October 6 and hold its final event at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., Sunday, October 15.



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.
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