



NHCO Vision 2021

ONE

WEEK TWO

Study Notes and Questions for Discussion and Personal Reflection.

After hearing the message by faith, summarize what God said to you _____

Hey everyone, welcome to WEEK 2 of our original series to kick off the new year. Quick! Ask the people next to you, "What is our one-word vision for 2021?" [pause] If they said, "ONE," then give them \$20. Even if they didn't give YOU any money, tell the person next to you, "I love you and there's nothing you can do about it." Go ahead.

What is our one-word vision for 2021? _____

Have you figured out the reason why we're saying to each other, "I love you and there's nothing you can do about it?" Why do you think we're saying this? _____

Last week we learned that to be ONE is not Mike's vision but Jesus' vision for His Church. So in 2021 our vision is to become ONE. Remember in the Matrix when Keanu Reeves starts blocking punches with one hand and stopping bullets in mid-air? Everyone said, "He is the one." Well, today we're going to tackle Ephesians chapter one, and discover why Paul says that JESUS is... THE ONE. To put it mildly we live in divided times. Personally, I can't remember a time when the divisions in our country were more obvious. And at 62 I'm like the "ancient one" in our Church-- except for Roy Helepololei who was friends with Kamehameha. America is divided (so we're told) between Blacks and Whites, rich and poor, urban and rural, Democrat and Republican. Let me tell you upfront, the ONLY hope for us now is Jesus and a full-scale Great Awakening. And I

can tell you with 100% prophetic certainty that Jesus will come back and make everything right when He returns.

Any thoughts or comments on the divided times we live in? _____

But let's get back to DIVISION. How did we get so DIVIDED? How does DIVISION happen? For the answer to this super important question, you just look at the word, DIVISION.

DIVISION: DI-vision. "Di" means "two:" TWO VISIONS

So DIVISION occurs when you have TWO VISIONS. It's like the book of Judges in the world today: every man did what was right in his own eyes. Everyone has their own vision, and they're doing their own thing. So dis one braddah like go Highway Inn, but da adda braddah he like go Uncle's Fish Market. So one braddah get one nice pitcha in his mind fo eat da ono lau lau at Highway Inn, wit da pipikaula, and poi, and Hawaiian sweet roll, potato-mac salad and da pumpkin haupia shortbread. You see da pitcha? Das da vision right dea. Da broke da mout vision! He like go Waipahu right now! But da adda braddah, he get one different pitcha in his mind. He like make fancy high maka maka kine. He no like go Waipahu--get too many Filipinos. He like go Pearlridge wit da Japani. He like sit down in one fancy reshtaurant whea da lady goin say, "Good evening, welcome to Uncle's Fish Market. How many in your party?" And he like eat da sashimi, wit da deep fried calamari, and drink one Uncle's Mai Tai. You see dat? Dis braddah get one different pitcha in his mind! So one braddah like take his opu to Waipahu but da adda braddah like take his to Pearlridge. TWO VISIONS. How we goin figgah dis out? Jun ken po? Yell and scream at each adda? O mo worse, SCRAP! Trow! Beef! Nah, no need. Cuz one o deez braddahs is da faddah! And da faddah wen tell his son, "Boy, you get money fo eat at Uncle's o wut?" "Uhh, no, dad." "Kden, I treat you Highway Inn den." "We go." And everybody's opu wen live happily evah aftah. If you didn't understand a word I said, go talk to Pastor Earl. Basically, DIVISION happens when you have TWO VISIONS.

What is division? Why does it happen? _____

And here it is,

"UNITY happens when we SUBMIT our visions to the AUTHORITY of GOD the FATHER."

Jesus demonstrated this perfectly last week when we talked about Gethsemane. Of course He didn't want to die. "Take this cup from Me," Jesus prayed. But immediately, without hesitation, in the same breath He prayed, "but let Your will be done not mine." (Luke 22:42) **Jesus was ONE with the Father because Jesus ONLY wanted to do the Father's will, never His own.** No, you didn't catch that. I said, "Jesus was ONE with the Father because Jesus ONLY wanted to do the Father's will, never His own." Can I get an amen? Jesus did this His entire life. He wasn't about to change when He reached the END of His life. How about us? If we continue to insist on doing it our way, we will never be ONE with the Father. AND, we will never be ONE with each other. DIVISION happens when we have TWO VISIONS. **"UNITY happens when we SUBMIT our visions to the AUTHORITY of GOD the FATHER."**

How does God create unity between us? Explain. _____

The Apostle who truly understood this vision and gave us a step by step manual on how to proceed is the Apostle Paul in his Letter to the Ephesians. Let's read this together:

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ... And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself" (Ephesians 1:3, 23 NLT).

Some quick background on Ephesus: Ephesus was a major port city located in modern-day Turkey. Paul planted this Church on his third missionary journey then continued to minister there for over 2 years. Anybody see Wonder Woman 84 yet? Well, for you Wonder Woman fans one legend claims that Ephesus was founded by the Amazons and named after the Amazonian Queen Ephesia. In Ephesus Paul was moving in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. If you touched Paul with a handkerchief then touched a sick person with that handkerchief the person would get healed. Remember the Seven Sons of Sceva? That was in Ephesus. (Read Acts 19.) A full-scale Spiritual Awakening broke out and people were forsaking their pagan idols, piling their books of enchantment in the streets, and setting them on fire. Needless to say this upset the local economy and people started rioting in the streets against the Christians. (Sound familiar?) They finally calmed down when they realized this might upset Rome. Paul and the Ephesian Church were ONE. They truly loved one another, and they were very close, just like us here at New Hope. Paul's deep and loving relationship with them was especially evident when he said his final farewell in one of the most moving passages in all the Bible. They knew in their hearts this would be the last time they would ever see each other this side of Heaven. Then Luke wrote these words:

³⁶When (Paul) had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them. ³⁷They all cried as they embraced and kissed him good-bye. ³⁸They were sad most of all because he had said that they would never see him again. Then they escorted him down to the ship" (Acts 20:36-38 NLT).

What happened when Paul planted the Ephesian Church? Describe the relationship Paul had with the saints at Ephesus. _____

The Ephesian Church was not a Jewish Church. This was a Greek city under Roman occupation. The revival brought every kind of person into this fellowship. There were Jews, Greeks, Romans, and likely other ethnicities as well, just like we saw on the Day of Pentecost. Their leaders had names like Gaius and Aristarchus. **The Ephesian Church overcame RACISM in their day.** Let me say that again: The Church at Ephesus overcame RACISM during a very racist time in human history. How did this happen?

Remember how DIVISION happens. TWO VISIONS. But UNITY happens when we all come under the FATHER'S ONE VISION. So BEFORE they believed in Christ, who did the Greeks worship as

god? Remember, your basic Greek mythology: Zeus, Ares, Poseidon. How about the Romans? Well, their gods were pretty much the exact same gods as the Greeks with different names: Zeus became Jupiter. Ares is Mars. Poseidon is Neptune. And so forth. And Jews? They worshiped one God, Yahweh. Whether we realize it or not, the most important thing about you is THE GOD YOU WORSHIP. Your god is the highest authority in your life. If your god tells you to do something, you don't want to risk angering him or he won't let it rain, your crops won't grow, and you and your people will starve. So if your god tells you to attack and kill other people, then you better do it or you won't be blessed. You are afraid that your god might smite you. So a person's god is the most important thing about that person. It's no different today. People today have their own opinions, even their own version of reality. Today people have essentially made themselves into gods. We are dealing with extreme division today because we have billions of gods running around trying to make the world in their own image. Billions of gods roam the Earth today forcing their will on others.

What caused division in the city of Ephesus? Why is a person's god the most important thing about that person? _____

What do we mean that "billions of gods" are roaming the world today? Why is that important?

But the Ephesians experienced the supernatural love and power of the God that Paul was talking about. The Holy Spirit in Paul healed them when their pagan gods did nothing. The Holy Spirit delivered them from evil and demonic powers when their pagan gods could not. And when they came to fellowship, the Christians lived as one. They accepted them, loved them, shared what they had with them. And Paul taught them that Jesus was not angry or vengeful or terrifying. Jesus was not flawed or jealous like Zeus. He was not out to destroy them like Mars. Instead Paul taught them that Jesus loved them and that He came in human form to die for their sins so they could become one with the Father. And like I said the Ephesians got so excited about meeting Jesus that a full-scale Spiritual Awakening took place. They completely and totally abandoned their pagan gods and worshiped Jesus now. These Greeks no longer worshiped Zeus. These Romans no longer worshiped Jupiter. And these Jews received a complete picture of the love and graciousness of Yahweh. So Jews, Greeks, and Romans set aside their old beliefs and misconceptions, united with Christ, who united them to the Father. Now they all worshiped GOD together AS ONE.

"UNITY happens when we SUBMIT our visions to the AUTHORITY of GOD the FATHER."

How did Paul and the Ephesian Church overcome their personal divisions? Explain. _____

So now they understood that being a Greek or a Roman or a Jew was not EVEN as important as being a CHRISTIAN. So here's the thing about believing in Zeus and Jupiter. Greeks and Romans both believed these gods lived on Mount Olympus. Only gods could live there. So no humans allowed. Not even Percy Jackson and the Olympians. But Paul introduced them to what REALLY happens when we are united with Christ, a completely different kind of relationship with God.

Let's read this:

"¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms... ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 1:19-20; 2:6 NLT).

Jews are blown away when they hear this because they knew they were dead meat if they approached the Presence of Yahweh without the proper sacrifice. Greeks and Romans are blown away because they never heard of a God who loved and cared for them, much less wanted to be WITH them in the Heavenly Realm. So why do we say Jesus is THE ONE? Remember the revelation from last week? The people of God are called Hebrews, or IVRI, because our God allows us to achieve IMPOSSIBLE crossings. Against all odds the IVRI CROSSED the Red Sea and escaped certain death. Against all odds the IVRI CROSSED the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Well, the most IMPOSSIBLE CROSSING OF ALL is to enter the Heavenly Realm. No mortal can achieve this. You may have heard all your life that if you believe in Jesus you will know for sure that you will go to Heaven when you die. But what Paul is revealing to the Ephesians is that your SPIRIT is in Heaven RIGHT NOW. How? By the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. God the Father raised the Son from the dead and seated Him at the Father's right hand. And when we believe in Jesus OUR SPIRIT is raised from the dead, and we are seated with the Son at the right hand of the Father. This is why Jesus is THE ONE.

What does "Hebrew" (Ivri) mean again? _____

Why do we say that Jesus the Messiah is "The One?" _____

Describe the "crossing" that we experience when we follow Jesus? _____

Now follow closely and receive this incredible revelation. When Paul first arrived at Ephesus, BEFORE the Spiritual Awakening occurred, he found some believers who were sympathetic to what he was saying. But there was something about them, something incomplete, something missing. Finally Paul asked them:

“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

“No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

“Then what baptism did you experience?” Paul asked.

And they replied, “The baptism of John.”

Paul said, “Oh! Well, John’s baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus. As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all” (Acts 19:1-4 NLT).

Normally when we say “baptism” we think of going down to the beach and getting ceremonially dunked in the water to proclaim that we believe in Jesus. We’re always happy to give people that opportunity. But baptism is SO much more than a ceremony.

“Baptism is a personal, immersive, experience of God.”

When Paul first met these Ephesian believers, into which God experience were they baptized?

Think of how Koreans make Kim Chee. They take ordinary cabbage and put it in a jar with that secret Kim Chee sauce. Then what? They let it MARINATE in there and the cabbage changes into Kim Chee! Which is the best? Well, everybody has their own opinion, of course, but the secret is to let the cabbage MARINATE. Everybody say “marinate.” So in Acts 19 Paul is going to help these believers marinate or immerse themselves in the latest revelation of what God is doing.

In your own words what is baptism? _____

We actually see three baptisms here: the baptism of John (repentance), the baptism of Jesus (redemption), and the baptism of the Spirit (reconciliation). These disciples heard about John the Baptist, who said, “Repent! The Messiah is coming.” So they’ve been marinating in repentance all this time, preparing for the coming of the Messiah. They meet Paul and he says, “The Messiah came already!” And they were like, “What? No way!” Paul said, “Yes way!” And they believed and received Jesus and they marinated in being redeemed by the Father.

What is the baptism of John and what does that mean? _____

What is the baptism of Jesus and what does that mean? _____

But then Paul said, “Wait, there’s more.”

“Really? What could be better than being forgiven by God?” they asked.

Paul said, "God wants to be with us forever! We're not just forgiven we are perfectly reconciled with God because of Jesus. In fact, He wants to live WITHIN US, INSIDE US right now! He wants us to--here it is--CARRY His Presence on the Earth. Do you want that?"

And they said, "This is too good to be true! Yes! Yes!"

And just then Paul laid his hands on them and they were baptized in the Holy Spirit, filled to overflowing with the Spirit of God. They began to speak in tongues and prophecy. Now they were marinating in the Holy Spirit. They were baptized or immersed in the Spirit.

What is the baptism of the Spirit and what does that mean? _____

The Church has focused so much on tongues and prophecy, we missed the BIG PICTURE. I pray in tongues all the time. **But don't miss the Manifest Presence because we're too enamored by the manifestations present.**

How might the Church be distracted by charismatic gifts? _____

Remember that God is 3 persons, 1 God, right? Father, Son, and Who? Holy Spirit. So if the Holy Spirit is within you, and the Holy Spirit is in the Trinity, then where does that put you? Because of Jesus, now there are human beings in the Godhead. Listen, on Christmas we're so amazed that God became man, but did you get the revelation that now there's a human being within God? No, it doesn't mean you're God, silly. "Make them ONE," Jesus prayed, "as I am ONE with You and You are one with Me, make them ONE IN US." By baptizing us in the Holy Spirit we have become ONE with the Father and the Son. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the Spirit is WITHIN US, so now we are ONE with God. We can hear God's voice. We can receive revelation. We are not worried or stressed because we are ONE with God. We can co-create the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven. All this happened because of Jesus! And that's why we call HIM "THE ONE." When we are united with Jesus, He unites us with the Father. Jesus immerses us in the Spirit so now we are ONE with the Father and ONE with the Son. Isn't that the most amazing thing ever?

What is the MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE of the baptism of the Holy Spirit? _____

Remember all this happened when Paul first arrived at Ephesus. When more and more believers were marinated in the secret sauce of the Holy Spirit, revival broke out! Why? Because the death and resurrection of Jesus made it possible for them to experience the most impossible CROSSING of all. The people of God, the IVRI, had crossed from death into life, from flesh into the Spirit, from hell into the Heavenly Realm, from separation and isolation to perfect union with God. **By the power of the CROSS, the IVRI had CROSSED the ultimate abyss created by our SIN into the ULTIMATE PROMISED LAND--the Presence of God in the Heavenly Realms.**

Summarize why we call Jesus "The One." Describe our crossing today when we follow Him. _____

So now they no longer spoke to each other from their woundedness or pain. Now they spoke from healing and wholeness. They no longer spoke to each other out of their flesh. They spoke from the Spirit. No more self-speak. Only God-speak. For now they were seated next to Jesus who is seated at the right hand of the Father in the throne room of the Heavenly Realms. And from the THRONE OF HEAVEN, they could now cross ANY division. They can cross over hatred. They can cross over unforgiveness. They can cross over jealousy, greed, and lust. They can cross over racism. They can cross over ANYTHING that used to divide them. Because now they were seated next to Jesus who sits at the right hand of the Father, where NO DIVISION EXISTS. UNITY with the Father DEMOLISHES ALL DIVISION. And as they continued to experience the love of the Father flowing through each of them to one another, their love, respect, and honor for each other grew stronger and stronger and stronger. And the city of Ephesus took notice. And there was revival and a Great Awakening. All this was possible because Jesus is THE ONE.

How does being ONE with the Father and the Son affect all of our relationships? _____

If you want to cross into the Promised Land of God's Presence, pray with me. Let's all pause now and give God our undivided attention and seriously respond to Him. Let's pour out our hearts to God. Father in Heaven, (go ahead and pray that out loud). Father in Heaven, thank you for Jesus. Jesus, thank you for your death and resurrection. You are indeed THE ONE. I believe in You. And I repent of all my selfishness and self-speak. And I make the crossing. I follow You, Jesus, as You take us from death into life, from the gates of hell to the throne of Heaven, from division to unity. Once again You empower Your people to make an impossible crossing--now into the ULTIMATE PROMISED LAND of Your Presence WITHIN US. Transform us now as we marinate in Your Presence. Thank You for making us ONE with YOU so we can be ONE with each other. All glory and honor and praise be to You, our God. For there is none like You. This we pray in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in whom we now dwell in marvelous light. And all the IVRI said, "AMEN!"

Tell the person next to you, "I love you and there's nothing you can do about it." We'll see you next week for even more REVELATION as our ONE SERIES CONTINUES! I love you guys and there's nothing you can do about it! ALOOO-HA!

Take a moment to write your own personal prayer response to God. Tell how God how you will repent. How will your life change now that you know your place in the Heavenly Realms? How will you relate to your family differently? Be as specific as possible. _____
