

Structural Integrity

- As man has devised greater and more magnificent structures, the need to find ways to hold them together multiplies.
- Spans like the golden gate
- Buildings like the Empire State building
- Airplanes that spans almost a football field.
- Aircraft carrier spans over 2 football fields.
- They are all useless if they cannot be trusted to hold together in storms and other disasters
- They are only as strong as the weakest link

Things Devised to Bind

- Solder – Circuit Boards
- Welds – Steel
- Rivets – Airplane / Skyscrapers
- Nuts / Bolts – Car Engine / Transmission
- Concrete – Roads / Foundations
- Glue/Screws – Furniture
- Nails – Framing
- Thread – Clothing / Upholstery
- We rely on them to hold things together even the most taxing circumstances

Unity Brings Strength / Protection

- *Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up... 12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken. Ecc 4:9-12*
- *But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.” Mt. 12:25-26*
- **United we stand – Divided we fall**

Unity Brings Strength / Protection

- While these passages only describe unity among men, when our unity also includes God, we become invincible.
- *I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*
Jn 17:20-21

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

- *Blest be the tie that binds*
 - *Our hearts in Christian love*
- *The fellowship of kindred minds*
 - *Is like to that above*
- *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. Col 3:12-15*

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

- *Before our Father's throne*
 - *We pour our ardent prayers*
- *Our fears our hopes our aims are one,*
 - *Our comforts and our cares*
- *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Rom 12:10-13*

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

- *We share our mutual woes*
 - *Our mutual burdens bear*
- *And often for each other flows*
 - *the sympathizing tear.*

- *Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 1Pet 3:8-10*

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

- *When we asunder part,*
 - *It gives us inward pain*
- *But we shall still be joined in heart*
 - *and hope to meet again.*

- *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ... 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1Th. 4:13-18*

Emotional Ties that us Bind together

- Finances: – Contracts
- Marriage: – Vows & Fidelity
- Families – Natural Affection
- Nations: – Patriotism
- Sports: – Competition
- Business: – Loyalty / Profit
- School: – Ambition

Spiritual Ties that Bind

- *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Eph 4:1-6*

The Truth that Binds

- *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith ...*
- *but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Eph 4:11-12, 15-16*
- **Binds us to God and to One Another**

Spiritual Ties that Bind

- *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. 12 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 1 Cor 1:10-13*

Scriptural Ties that Bind

- Ps 133:1-3
 - Stewards
 - Bride of Christ
 - Household of God
 - Holy Nation
 - Running a Race
 - Edification
 - Body
 - God's Building
- CHURCH**
- Financial: contracts
 - Marriage: vow/commitment
 - Family: natural affection
 - Patriotism
 - Sports: competition
 - School: respect / ambition
 - Cells and organs: life
 - Structural Integrity

Ties that Bind

- Emotions
- Jn 13:34-35; New: As I have loved you
- Rom 12:9-16 Tender Affection
- Col 3:12-14 Love: bond of perfection
- Gal 6:1-2; Bear another's burdens.
- Phil 2:2-3 Be of the same mind.
- I Pet 4:7-11; 3:8-11 Fervent in love.

The Unity Christ's Demands

- *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Eph 2:19-22*

Structural Integrity

- *I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ... 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ... 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; Jn 15:1-6*