

Jesus Declared:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another”

John 13:34-35

What does this mean?

- Jesus intentionally chose a wide range of folks to be His disciples, from **different classes** and with **different political views** and **backgrounds**. People with nothing in common but a shared experience of **Jesus**. People in fact **a lot like us**.
- 1 Corinthians 12** says of the body of Christ: “We were all baptised by the one Spirit into one body” (v13) “You are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it.” (v27) “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; If one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.” (v26)

What does it look like?

- Stouffville Churches Sign** (see front cover) Welcomes visitors and lists every Christian church with equal weighting for all... a powerful symbol of unity!
- www.ChurchesInBracebridge.com** Profiles all congregations in town, helps people connect with a home church and helps **The Local Church** to work together.

What do I do with this?

- Within church** speak to your pastor about what joint activities may already be going on. Take an interest. Pray for your brothers and sisters in the church next door, and find out what their needs are.
- Within communities** seek opportunities to pray together and be intentional about mingling. Learn people's names!
- Once we learn** to stop fighting each other, we can join forces to fight the real enemy, and **reclaim our towns for Jesus!**

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EXAMPLES OF CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER



Joe Abbey-Colborne at 'Spectrum' inter-church worship, Parkdale Neighbourhood Church



'Spirit Fuxion', inter-denominational event, Belfair United Church



Aurora Prayer Breakfast

Ecclesiact [i-klee-zhee-akt]

- **Ecclesia**: church or congregation (Latin)
- **act**: to do or represent



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Providing tools and advice to churches **working together** for the Glory of God.



Sign at Whitchurch Stouffville, Ontario

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Jesus Prayed:

“That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you... May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me”

John 17:21,23

What does this mean?

- **Within church** we need to avoid forming ‘cliques’, and intentionally reach out to form **real friendships** with all fellow worshippers.
- **Within communities** Christian churches need to form active partnerships with other congregations that cross boundaries like denominations and worship styles, and then choose **to publicly bless them**.
- **WHEN we unite** in spite of our differences... **THEN** the world will sit up and take notice!

What does it look like?

- **Spectrum** - a multi-denominational worship exploration service that **puts Jesus first** and everything else second.
- Rather than glossing over differences, they **highlight** and **celebrate** them.
- Learn to rely on Grace and be unoffendable: **“That’s the heart of The Gospel - learning to love people who are different than you”**
- Pastor Joe

What must I do with this?

- **Be intentional** in forming friendships with other Christians - *especially* those from other churches.
- **Go outside your comfort zone** - Jesus even took his disciples to Samaria!
- **Pray for other Christian Churches** Every time you pass by a church, pray that God will **richly bless** them, and will give them a renewed passion to tell people about **Jesus**.

Jesus Promised:

“If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them”

Matthew 18:19-20

What does this mean?

- We must first **AGREE** to **MEET**.
- **When we meet in Jesus’ Name**, we have God’s attention and He will hear our prayers.
- **When we seek God’s will in prayer**, and then submit to that will, God now has **OUR** attention, and gives us the power to accomplish anything he asks us to do.
- **When we move in God’s power**, we can overcome the enemy and transform our town.

What does it look like?

- **Local Pastor’s Prayer Meetings**.
- **Prayer walking / Adopt your street**
Partner with others to blanket your town in prayer when you **‘Adopt Your Street’**:
www.transformourworld.org/en/adopt
- **Prayer Breakfasts** (see prayforthem.ca)
 - **Richmond Hill** began in 2004
 - **Aurora** began in 2009
 - **Newmarket** began in 2011

What must I do with this?

- **Within church** we need to faithfully pray:
 - **For our pastors**, that God’s grace and favour be upon them;
 - **For families, marriages and singles**, for Jesus to be glorified in their relationships;
 - **For our friends and neighbours**, that God will reach them and they will accept Jesus.
- **Within communities** Pastors are urged to meet to pray and encourage one another; Christians have God’s ear and can pray for him to transform their town.

Jesus Warned:

“Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand”

Matthew 12:25

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged”

Matthew 7:1

What does this mean?

- Although in the first quotation Jesus is speaking about the enemy, **this principle applies to us**. Divisions can appear within families, within churches, and between churches.
- When we choose to **curse** instead of **bless**, we’re actually doing the enemy’s work for him.
- Infighting is a **very ugly** thing to witness and only reinforces the notion that Christians are nothing but a **bunch of whiney hypocrites**. **This reflects badly on Jesus**.

What must I do with this?

- **Within church** we must avoid gossip. Instead, strive to **encourage** and **build up**.
- **Within communities** pastors must steadfastly **avoid bad-mouthing other churches**, and instead actively seek opportunities to **publicly commend** them, and **openly celebrate** their accomplishments where these are in agreement with the Bible.
- **When we choose to bless** those in the church next door, they may become more open to what **we** might have to say.



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**Interested in working with us?
Call Martin Francis (416) 410-9240**