

## One Cause – 3

### John 18:37 (NKJV)

<sup>37</sup> Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

- His cause was so vital He was willing to die for it

Before you were born the Father

Knew you – Destined you – Purposed you

### Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

Purpose and vision are an endless flow

### 2 Corinthians 5:14 (The Message)

Christ’s love has moved me to such extremes. His love has the first and last word in everything we do.

When you surrender your vision and future into God’s hands and His will for your life the cause of Christ will take your personal passion and vision for your life to a whole new level

## United Around One Cause

### Psalm 133 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity! <sup>2</sup> *It is* like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. <sup>3</sup> *It is* like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

- When there is unity around One Cause, God commands the blessing
- There is an anointing that makes things flow better
- Everyone doing their part helps the others grow
- When there is disunity the exact opposite happens

### Ephesians 4:3 (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

### Matthew 12:25 (NLT)

<sup>25</sup> Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, “Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart.

- Jesus says, a kingdom, town or family
- It applies to our lives today
- Division will eventually destroy a church
- A divided house doesn't only mean bickering and fighting
- It can mean we are heading in multiple directions
- If we're heading in different directions, (*agendas*) we will not be as productive

## A House Divided Has Divided Motives

Do I use my vision to help build the house of God or do I use the house of God to build my vision?

- Am I a resource to the Church
- Or am I just a consumer?
- When our motives are genuinely driven to serve the Lord's purposes, God will see that his house and your life flourish

When your house, family, marriage, friendships, business, and the church have a united vision and focus on a greater cause there is a great sense of stability and security

- God values loyalty
- Undivided loyalty is an important characteristic for all of us
- Loyalty will actually force you to take sides

People often think they can be loyal to everyone

Those who try to be loyal to everyone are not good friends to anyone

- Judas tried to be loyal to Jesus and the Pharisees
- He failed at both
- Ended up hanging himself
- You can't lift your hands on Sunday and live like hell the rest of the week

### Proverbs 18:24

24 The man of many friends [a friend of all the world] will prove himself a bad friend, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

There will be times you are forced to make a stand about where your loyalties lie

It is impossible to be a friend to the church and the world simultaneously

- Living for “One Cause” is about making tough decisions in life
- Including whom you are close friends with
- Do your close friendships love the church?
- At some point you will choose one side or the other
- Choose One Cause now!

There are a lot of great causes in the world to pursue, but try to tackle them all, and you won't get far

- We can have a greater impact as a group than we can individually
- When we combine our efforts and resources we are much more effective
- We can make a bigger difference

Your contribution, your vision, linked to a united effort can make a much bigger difference

**Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Bring **all the tithes** “*time, treasure, talents*” into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room enough to receive it.*

- The storehouse is the local church

When we work together our ability to meet people's needs, bring answers, and take the Gospel of Christ to the world increases

### Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> Two *are* better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.

When we are truly united as one we are going in a single direction

- God's purpose and worldly pursuits cannot coexist
- A core business concept that doesn't have reaching the lost as a core value will ultimately cause you to have divided loyalties
- Time – Talent – Resources
- Wherever there is division, wrong motives, disloyalty, and disunity the purposes of God cannot stand strong

### 2 Corinthians 9:10 (NLT)

<sup>10</sup> For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, **he will provide and increase your resources** and then produce a great harvest of generosity\* in you.

When your vision, your time, your giving, and your support are united with a single-minded church there is a great harvest that we all enjoy together

Everything about you – what you live for, how you live your life, and your confession can provoke people to think about eternity

- Your life is here on loan from God
- We are here to make an impact on the next generation
- We are stewards of the message of Christ
- What will we do with it?

Your vision is not just for you; it's for those to come

God promises to build a heavenly Jerusalem, built upon the cornerstone Jesus Christ

**Psalm 102:12, 18 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> But you, O LORD, will sit on your throne forever.

Your fame will endure to every generation. <sup>18</sup> Let this be recorded for future generations, so that a people not yet born will praise the LORD.

- We should be committed to see the future generations do greater things than us
- Your life can impact the future
- God wants us to live with an eternal perspective that embraces the generations

Question:

*“Will the Church of Jesus Christ be stronger or weaker because of my time here on earth?”*

There are two things we can be sure of

- Jesus is coming again
- We have been saved for reasons that extend beyond our own eternal security

Millions of Christ followers have experienced the joy of salvation

- Are you simply living as one who is saved?
- Or have you taken up the challenge to live as one who is called?

When the Lord saves us He has much more than just our eternity in mind

### 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

### 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, <sup>14</sup> to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Ecclesiastes 3:11 AMP

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He also has planted eternity in men's hearts *and* minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy], yet so that men cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

- A divinely implanted sense of purpose adds another dimension to eternity
- It's an active and progressive fulfillment of God's purpose every day of our lives here on earth
- It's intended not only to transform our lives but the lives of every person we come in contact with

Our calling is not something out of reach, or unattainable

- It is something He has placed inside of you
- Inside of your unique make up of gifts and talents

Many people make it too difficult

- Am I called to pastor?
- Am I called to serve in women's ministry?
- Am I called to reach out to single moms?
- Am I called to be a missionary to China?



*“I actually believe there are things in your heart that the Lord has deposited there, and as you begin to step out in faith, keeping God central, he will begin to reveal, refine, and release you in your holy calling.”*

– Brian Houston – For This I Was Born

We should be impacting our family, relationships, PTA group, Sports team, the person who works in your office, the person who served you coffee this morning

One Cause should encompass all aspects of our life

- Every situation
- Every conversation
- Every endeavor
- Every day

We need to be willing to use what is in our hand today

- Your gifting
- Your talents
- The things you love
- The things in your heart that you are passionate about

The best way to fulfill what God has put in your heart is by being faithful with what He has put in your hand – Today!

What are you holding?

The call of Moses – **Exodus 4**

- Asked to lead Gods people out of bondage
- Tries to convince the Lord He has the wrong person
- “Who’s going to listen to me?”
- “How am I possibly going to do that?”

**Exodus 4:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> So the LORD said to him, “What *is* that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.”

- Often your calling is screaming at you
- Staring you right in the face
- Something you do naturally

Stop saying

- I just don’t know where I fit?
- I don’t know what I’m supposed to do
- I don’t know God’s will for my life

Ask yourself

- Where am I gifted?
- What are my talents?
- What comes naturally to me?
- That is your calling
- God doesn’t want you to become someone else

**1 Corinthians 7:20 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called.

## James 1:17 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

- The lord doesn't make mistakes
- He doesn't change His mind
- He is not schizophrenic
- He hasn't made you one way to use you another way
- He's given you gifts and talents on purpose

There are some who say, *"I just feel like God wants me to lay it down."*

- Christian sports people want to become pastors
- Pastors want to be business people
- Worship leaders want to be rock stars
- Pastors want to be worship leaders

Fact: you do not have the right to lay down what God has gifted you with

Why?

- What is in your hand often involves, pressure, discipline, and diligence
- What is in your heart is romantic
- The pressures of the present is not on what is in your heart
- Your heart holds a dream to which you can escape
- The dreams of your heart do not feel like work

If you are not happy and diligent now you won't be when you arrive at your dream

## Genesis 8:22 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> “While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”

- What season are you in?
- We need diligence in the present to lead to a harvest in the future
- What’s in your hand?

What’s in your hand is present and familiar is in your heart is distant and mysterious

- Familiarity will cause you to not appreciate what you have in your hands
- The Jewish people were looking for a Messiah but didn’t see Jesus right in front of them
- They were looking for a knight on a white horse

What is in your hand is connected to your calling

- Do not underestimate the power of the things that God has put in front of you today

What’s in your hand looks like you; what’s in your heart looks the way you would like to look

- Sadly, some peoples gift may get them somewhere that their character cannot keep them
- What is in your hand will build character and faith in God

## Luke 16:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> He who *is* faithful in *what is* least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is* least is unjust also in much.