

#4 This week Pastor Daniel talked about how human unity is not automatically healthy. The unhealth in the story is visible when the people come together to build themselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that they can “make a name for themselves” (Genesis 11:4). The purpose of their unity was to build themselves up, and in a way, to declare their independence apart from God. Not all unity is unhealthy, and the Bible talks about the healthy kind.

Philippians 2:1-4, NIV

¹Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others

1 Peter 3:8-9, ESV

⁸Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

What are some major differences between the unity we see in Genesis 11 and the unity described in the passages above?

BE VULNERABLE

#5 Pride is something that can creep into our lives in subtle ways. Is there an area of your life where pride has a stronghold? How could your Life Group be praying for you and helping you with this area of your life, if they only knew about it?

#6 Looking back at this week’s teaching, what is most important for you to remember and why?

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Commit to pray for at least 3 prayer requests from your Life Group)

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CREATION TO CHAOS

A SERIES ON GENESIS 1-11

Pastor Daniel Lanning
March 3, 2024
Creation to Chaos: Part 6
springfieldfaithcenter.org/sermons

THE AWFUL POWER OF UNITY

Genesis 11

The Story:

- ❶ Unity isn't automatically healthy
- ❷ God is invested in the health of his world
- ❸ God comes down in both judgment and mercy

Final Thoughts:

- ✓ God is always working to fulfill his promises.

LIFE GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

For the week of March 3, 2024

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

BE FRIENDLY

#1 What is the tallest building you've been to the top of? Or, what is the tallest building you've ever seen? How tall was it; where was it located? What do you think the builders were trying to say in building it that tall?

BE OPEN

#2 This weekend's story embodied an important biblical principle: *God comes down in both judgment and mercy* (see Genesis 11:5). *Judgment*—God confused their language and scattered them over the earth. *Mercy*—God called Abram and Sarai and blessed all nations through them (12:1-3). How do you see this same principle at work in the Bible passage below?

Exodus 3:1-10, NIV

¹Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." ⁵"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

How does this principle become a source of hope for the Hebrew slaves in Egypt?

What does this Biblical principle reveal about the character of God?

In what ways does Jesus exhibit this same principle?

(**Pro-tip:** see John 1:1-14; Revelation 21:1-5 and 22:1-5)

#3 At one level, the Tower of Babel is a story about human arrogance and the propensity of human beings to take life into our own hands. The Bible has a lot to say *against* pride, arrogance, and the desire to make names for ourselves. As you read the passages below, make note of what stands out to you.

Proverbs 18:10-12, ESV

¹⁰The Lord's name is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and find refuge. ¹¹The riches of the wealthy are a strong city and like a high wall in their imagination. ¹²Pride comes before a disaster, but humility comes before respect.

Luke 14:11, NIV

For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

1 John 2:15-17, NIV

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 Peter 5:5-6, ESV

⁵...you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁶So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

According to the passages above, what are some of the dangers associated with arrogance and self-exaltation?

Humility is the antidote to pride. What are some benefits of walking in humility?