



1/16: Ps 21 & 22
1/17: Ps 23 & 24
1/18: Ps 25 & 26
1/19: Ps 27 & 28
1/20: Ps 29 & 30

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1



Welcome to Redeemer Covenant Church! If you are visiting for the first time, please know that **we are so glad you are here**. It is our desire to serve you in any way we can. Thank you for joining us today and we look forward to encouraging and getting to know you. Childcare is provided and a Children's Church program is available during the service.



What is Christian Unity? by John Piper

Unity among two or more people gets its virtue entirely from something else. Unity itself is neutral until it is given goodness or badness by something else. So if Herod and Pilate are unified by their common scorn for Jesus (Luke 23:12), this is not a good unity. But if Paul and Silas sing together in prison for Christ's sake (Acts 16:25), this is a good unity. Therefore, it is never enough to call Christians to have unity. That may be good or bad. Christian unity in the New Testament gets its goodness from a combination of its *source*, its *views*, its *affections*, and its *aims*.

Source: Paul tells us to *"be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"* (Eph 4:3). I take that to mean that the Holy Spirit is the great giver of unity. *"In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit."* (1 Cor 12:13)

Views: Paul says that pastors and teachers are to equip the saints *"until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God"* (Eph 4:13). In other words, the unity we pursue is unity in the truth. Of course, Christian unity is more than shared truth, but not less. Paul piles up the words for common-mindedness in Phil 2:2, *"Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."* Everything is to *"accord with Christ."* May God *"grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus."* (Ro 15:5)

Affections: To be sure, unifying love in the body of Christ includes a rugged commitment to do good for the family of God whether you feel like it or not (Gal 6:10). But, as difficult as it is for diverse people, the experience of Christian unity is more than that. It includes affectionate love, not just sacrifice for those you don't like. It is a feeling of endearment. We are to have affection for those who are our family in Christ. *"Love one another with brotherly affection"* (Ro 12:10). *"Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart"* (1 Pet 1:22).

Aims: Spirit-rooted, Christ-manifesting, truth-cherishing, humbly-loving unity is designed by God to have at least two aims: a witness to the world, and an acclamation of the glory of God. John makes the first of these most clear: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another just as I have loved you."*

We are beginning 2017 on our knees in prayer as we seek God's face and desire His power and proclaim His promises. Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God.

Suggested Plan:

- **Choose a day of the week to fast (whole day or portion thereof) during this month of January**
- **Set aside 15 minutes each day to pray for our church – and specifically, set aside Wed mornings (7 AM) or evenings (9 PM) where we are ALL can pray at the same time for our church, our mission, our unity, and for one another.**
- **Make use of our War Room (Prayer Room). It is always open and ready. Come and pray BEFORE or AFTER church on Sunday morning. Come during the week.**
- **Attend a PRAYER VIGIL on Friday night, January 27, from 7 to 9 pm at church.**

What's Happening

Today

- 9:30 Celebration Service
Children's Church
Nursery Care
- 11:15 Leadership Meeting
- 6:00 Life Group (Mansell)
- 6:00 Life Group (Reed)

Monday, 1/16

- 6:00 Youth Group

Wednesday, 1/18

- 7:00 Time to PRAY
- 9:30 Ladies Bible Study
- 9:00 Time to PRAY

Thursday, 1/19

- 7:00 Women's Bible Study
- 7:00 Men's Bible Study

UPCOMING EVENTS

mark your calendars

- 1/22 All Church Forum:
"Are We a Safe Place?"
5:30 pm - Social Room
- 1/27 Prayer Vigil – 7 to 9 pm
- 1/27 Youth Winter Camp
Alpine Conference Ctr
Departure time: TBD
- 2/11 Iron Men – 10:00 am
- 3/10 Marriage Retreat
Camp Crags, Malibu
Cost: \$300
Childcare avail for kids
2 yrs old and under

OUR MISSION

To be a **family** that is **passionate** about **living**

OUR CORE VALUES

HONESTY		LOYALTY		SERVICE	
LOVE		WISDOM		GROWTH	

OUR FIVE MINISTRY PRIORITIES

				
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LIFE GROUPS AND BIBLE STUDIES

Life Groups & Bible Studies **DEEPEN** our **WALK** with

<p>Sunday Reed Life Group 11249 Crossdale Ave 6:00 PM Contact: <i>Pastor Brad</i></p> <p>Mansell Life Group Various homes 6:00 PM Contact: <i>Steve Mansell</i></p>	<p>Wednesday Ladies Bible Study Social Room 9:30 AM Contact: <i>Pat Vallefuoco</i></p>	<p>Thursday Men's Bible Study 7:00 PM, Room 101 Contact: <i>Pastor Brad</i></p> <p>Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM, Room 102 Contact: <i>Lisa Reed</i></p>
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CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND NURSERY INFO

	<p>This Week: Rick Hale</p> <p>Next Week: Lance & Susan</p>	<p>This Week: TBD</p> <p>Next Week: TBD</p>	
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