

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

–The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Field

10 Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. 12 What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." 13 Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ... 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. 18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 & 17-18

### Thoughts

There are different types of unity. The type of unity you experience in moments of realization of how connected everything is, as expressed in some of our religions. There is the unity in sharing the same opinions with everyone in the room, and from laughing at the same innocent or not so innocent jokes. Or unity in silence to avoid external conflict. There is unity from sharing mutual contempt. Unity in cheering for the same team. We all have examples of ways to be united.

St. Paul warned the Corinthians not to be so united behind any church leader that that they'd turn against one another and forget about their unity via the cross. And yet the story about Jesus walking toward and dying on the cross does not exactly evoke images of people being of one mind about Jesus. Unity wasn't about agreement at any cost, but about breaking through people's efforts at trying to be superior to one another or elevating their factions and human leaders too high.

Reverend William Barber in a recent NPR interview, reflected on some of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s words about unity. King recognized that people on both sides of the racial divides were suffering. He wanted the poor of all skin colors to form coalitions together. This is still relevant today in light of the United Nations' report that in the U.S., 40 million people live in poverty and 18.5 million live in extreme poverty. In the same interview, Barber was asked who he thought the people were behind a gun militia planning to storm Virginia's state capitol on this Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. He responded that many were probably struggling with poverty and health care needs. He claimed we should all be storming the voting booths together, rather than being against one another.

We need more unity in our churches, communities, and world. Paul's warning is to watch how we lift ourselves above one another in the various ways we unite. Let us begin by praying that we can return to the love God revealed through the cross, and from there let our actions flow. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy Crane