



Week Five
March 11 - 17

Following Christ Together Through the Prayer Action Plan

ONE FOR ALL, ALL FOR ONE!

Ah...the Musketeers! Maybe you've seen one of the movies or read the book by French writer Alexandre Dumas. That phrase is known as being the motto of Dumas' *The Three Musketeers*. The Musketeers were a company of the King's Guards. They fought for King and Country. This motto is a fascinating concept, even more so now in a culture that seeks what is best for 'me' not necessarily what is best for 'others'.

"All for one and one for all" speaks of a deep bond of unity. If one gets into trouble everyone goes into battle in his honor. "All for one" means that the group supports each of its individual members, so if one was in need all of the group would come to his/her aid. "One for all" means that the individual is for the group or cause more than they are for his/her self, such that they put the needs of the group or cause above their own.

When one of the group would find themselves in peril or in need of help, all the others rush to their aid, even if that meant destruction or death while trying to help the one. One, two, or twenty or more dead to rescue the one is not considered wrong. All for One. One for All.... In perspective: For the betterment of all, it is accepted that sometimes one or more must be sacrificed or fall by the wayside in battle.

When the enemy understands that dedication, then they understand that it is impossible to break the group by singling out one individual. To attack one is to attack all. All for One. Also, each member of the group knows that everything hangs together ONLY if one, lonely person is willing to make a sacrifice, or the ultimate sacrifice, to save the rest. One for All. United we stand but divided we fall. Isn't this reminiscent of the early Church we see in Acts 2?

GOD'S WORD

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were

being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

The Church in Acts is an example to us of what unity looks like. They were united under one cause...together...seeking what was best for the entire body and not for self. They gave of themselves gladly and generously to help provide for the others in the group and to advance the cause. This unity and self-sacrificial way of living was blessed by the Lord and as their number increased because of those being saved. Doesn't that excite you? Doesn't that breathe life into your soul? These amazing and miraculous things that God did in Acts can still happen today... in your life...in your family and in our church!

APPLY THE WORD

So how can we help cultivate unity like we see in the church of Acts? Reflect on these questions and allow God to challenge and speak truth to you as it relates to these areas:

- Are you taking time to study God's Word?
- Are you involved in Christian fellowship that seeks spiritual growth and accountability?
- Do you seek after God's will for your life? Your family? Your church?
- Are there areas in your life that you've been seeking what is best for you versus what is best for the cause of Christ?
- Does He want you to become more generous in your giving to others through your time, your talents and/or your treasures?

PRAY

Take time to pray and ask God to show you this week:

God, what are ways that I can help bring greater unity to my family and to my church? Help me to understand and become more united with your plan and to help Your kingdom grow. I need more of You, God and less of me.

Everyone a Disciple. Everyone a Disciple Maker.