

Lord,

We live in this world that seems to thrive on division. Politics, nations, religions, gangs . . . striving, rivalry, competition, willfulness, winning at all costs . . . these seem to have become the language and currency of our time. It is the spirit of the age . . . at times even we adopt it and so even our own marriages, families, and friendships are impacted. The collateral damage is all around us . . . even, at times, within our own souls.

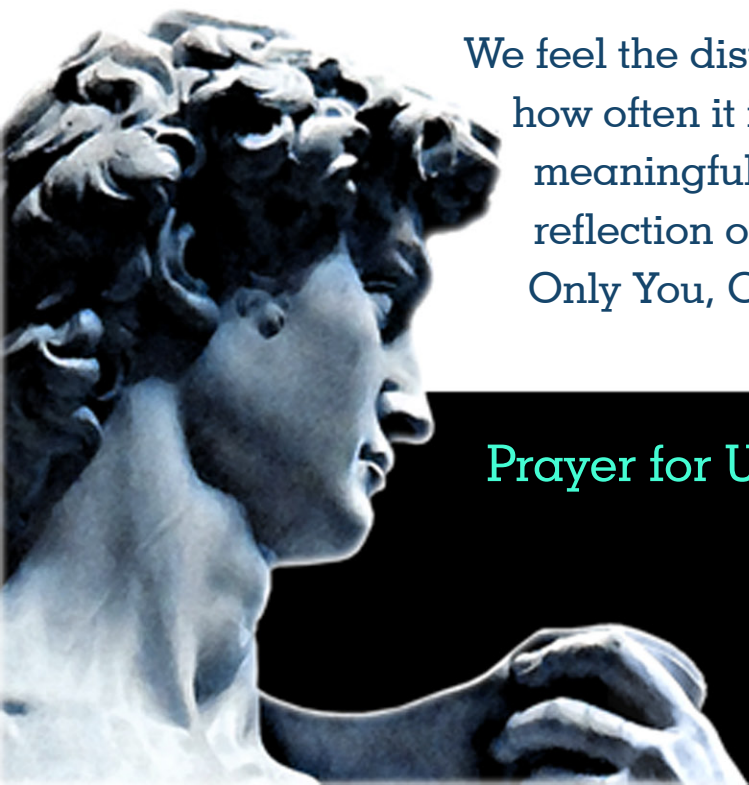
Thank-you Lord for the brief respites . . . football players from opposing teams gathering for prayer after a game. Very occasionally, the political rival who says something generous about his opponent.

At some point, in some way, either by action, thought, or inaction we have all been guilty.

Couples break marriages. Break vows. People huddle to share discontent. Young and immature believers are greatly harmed in the process.

We feel the disunity in our own souls . . .
how often it is that our inability to find
meaningful relationships is merely a
reflection of our brokenness within.
Only You, O God, can heal us.

Prayer for Unity - KPC January 8, 2012



We praise you today that You are the Great Unifier. And Reconciler. You could have left mankind divorced from You – the universe spinning out of control. Yet, You sent Your own Son to redeem and reclaim us . . . both a lost humanity and lost Creation. That is what the promise of the new man, and the new heavens and the new earth, are all about.

We groan in the waiting for it.

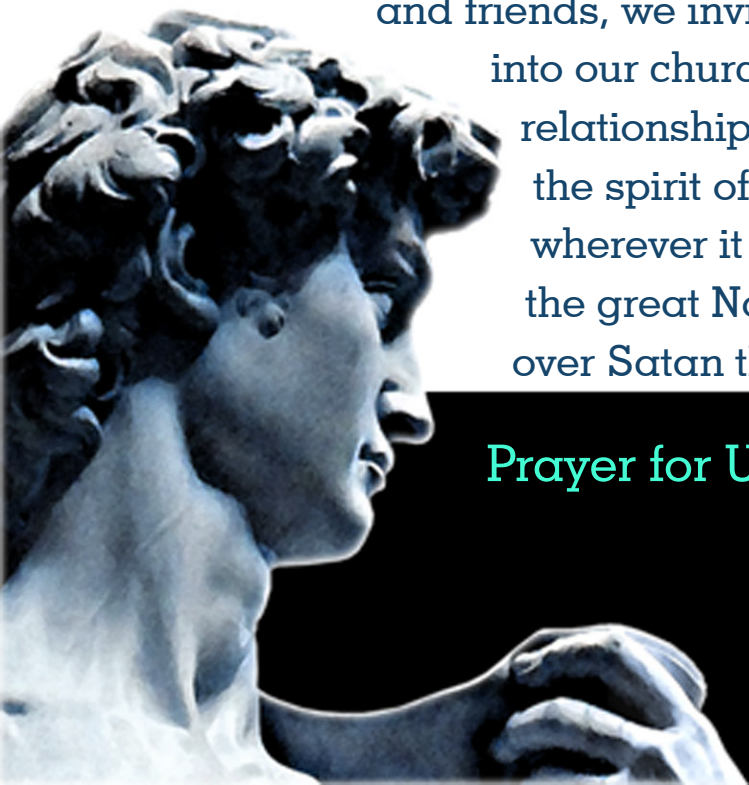
Why do we fail, Lord? Why do we fail at relationships? Fail at unity? Why do we mercilessly press our own agendas, no matter what the cost? Why couldn't we have a passion for unity instead?

Why do we so constantly tear at the very fabric which You seek to re-knit? We are tired of endlessly having to win . . . the deepest cry of our heart is that we would so much rather be one.

We repent of our sins and ask You to change us.

Today, as a body of believers and as family members and friends, we invite the Spirit of Unity into our church, our homes, and our relationships. We take authority over the spirit of disunity and division wherever it exists. We proclaim the great Name of Jesus Christ over Satan the Divider. We commit

Prayer for Unity - KPC January 8, 2012



ourselves to *"make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"* and yet even more we celebrate Your commitment, Lord Jesus, to do the same.

We bless You and thank You for those we are close to. For those with whom we celebrate heartfelt unity. We thank You for the times of worship, prayer, study, and service which bring us together. We believe that *"greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world."*

We set a hedge or protection around our homes, our relationships, our church.

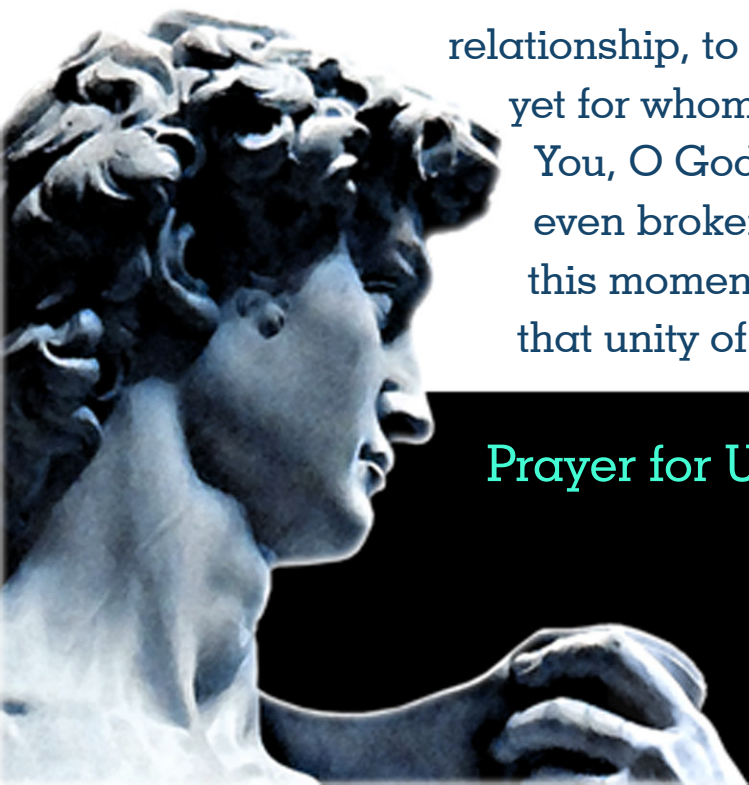
We invite the spirit of humility, patience, forgiveness, grace, and kindness into our homes and into our church home. We believe, O Lord, that You will powerfully work within us so that we will strive for things which make for peace.

Jesus we bless You that even now You are praying for us to be one, even as You and the Father are one. (John 17:21)

This is no small prayer Lord, many of us feel it keenly.

And for the soul out there who deeply desires relationship, to be loved and to love, and yet for whom their relationship with You, O God, is disfigured, confused, even broken . . . speak to them in this moment. Show them, O Lord, that unity of life begins with unity with

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God. That You, O Lord, love them and have made complete provision for them to come to You through Jesus Christ, the great reconciler, leader, teacher, defender, guide, redeemer . . . Savior.

Let them, O lord, in this moment turn to You. And find you . . . and begin the journey of setting things in order.

We are grateful to You, O Lord. You are our all in all. You are well able to do exceedingly above and beyond all that we think ask or imagine. We consider it done because You, Jesus, have taught us that when we ask in agreement with each other and with Your will — we already have what we ask for. And we believe Lord, that You will guide us and empower us in both working and walking this out.

Yes, Lord, we have challenges . . . but we have You. And we have each other. We believe, O Lord, that nothing shall be impossible to us because nothing is impossible with You . . . and that as we are united, we shall stand and that nothing shall be impossible unto this people for they are united.

Thank-You, O Lord, for the miracles and provision and change and peace and harmony that You will send.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

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