

## **UNITY IN DIVERSITY IN THE FRAME OF NATION'S TRANSFORMATION**

Unity is a must for transformation. Disunity only results in people's disintegration. That's why Lord Jesus, in His prayer for His disciples, asked to the Father *"so that they will be one."*

But how to make the expected unity become a reality?

In the sinful world, unity happens by force [an iron hand, according to Matthew 20:25]. But this is just a temporary unity. When this iron hand is no longer there, disintegration process will happen. "Transformation" that happens because of iron hand is a temporary transformation.

The forced iron hand's authority in the event of Jesus' crucifixion could not hold Jesus' body from the death. This event became Apostle Peter's basic argumentation for Jesus' resurrection. (Acts 2:27,31,32). Sin contains the seed of disintegration and death. The main symptom of sin is selfishness, self worship; which is the violation to the first law (Exodus 20:3) and results in disunity.

In the above contexts, the understanding of unity becomes a very important point for transformation process. But unity as a truth also has compound dimension. Based on the **type** or **kind of unity**, we can at least talk about **doctrinal unity, spiritual unity, and functional unity**. In the term of sin of selfishness, suffice discussion about many unity dimensions become very important for the journey of city and nation's transformation.

### ***DOCTRINAL UNITY***

The genuine truth (John 14:6, Acts 4:12) is the truth that revives; separated from the falseness of sin that brings death. But doctrine about truth which is exclusive in the plural society can also bring disintegration. Because of this reason, the exclusive doctrine (for example - to love God with all of your heart, souls, and mind - Matthew 22:37) which can be subjective, will only become a complete truth when there is inclusive truth of fellow being in the community of society and nation. (Matthew 22:39-40). The exclusive doctrine (John 3:16) which doesn't lose its self meaning in the plural society, becomes the inclusive strength which muffle the corruption (salt) and darkness (light) in the society which is going towards transformation. In view of internal Christianity, the uniqueness of a "health" doctrine is a uniqueness which allows each part of the body to do its functions (to plant, to splash). The true growth (growth; transformation) becomes the true result of the works of the source of life (God) who sanctify and bless parts of His body so that they can complement each others to do His works that bless all the society. (1 Cor 3:6).

### ***FUNCTIONAL UNITY***

In order to be able to function healthily, all parts of the body must do their functions optimally. A healthy congregation is congregation who do their functions to spread the news

(kerygma), to serve (diakonia) or to build fellowship (koinonia). Cooperation in and between Christian's functions that complement each others will result in the growth of all the body.

In a society, ministry focus must be genuine. This ministry needs to show His holistic love, for example by helping disaster's victims, taking part in poverty annihilation, or by increasing the quality of manpower, without asking anything in return. In the situation where the gap between the minority "have" and the majority "have not" becomes wider and wider, this love ministry will give great contribution for the strengthening of cohesion and society's stability.

Synergized ministry in every field can build up testimony which glorifies the head of every ministry's focus, the Lord Jesus Christ. In the community of plural society and nation, ministry's focus (for example: for poverty), needs to cooperate with government and all parties, without discrimination of ethnic, culture or religion.

### ***SPIRITUAL UNITY***

Spiritual unity is a spiritual miracle unity that happens because of the works of Holy Spirit which unite all believers that come from different ethnic, culture or even church denomination. De jure unity (Romans 6:3,4 etc) has happened when a person believes and becomes the member of the body of Christ. De facto unity (Acts 2:1 etc, Acts 10:44, etc) happens when the people exalt Jesus Christ together when they worship, praise God, listen to His words or involve in the ministry and testimony together.

For the purpose of city and nation's transformation, cooperation between many God's children and cooperation of many unity dimensions are needed. Doctrinal unity must be exclusive for sin, unique for the context of each of God's people, but inclusive to make it a blessing for all the nations. Specifically, Spiritual unity (which includes unique and comprehensive doctrine) and Functional unity are like two sides of a coin, where none of them can be ignored or regarded as useless. Unite not for the sake of unity, but unite because of and for the glory of God (John 17:22), our amazing God.

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