

“All the believers were one in heart and mind...”

I have a few situations listed below that I would like to know if you can identify with.

1. You are a parent with children.
2. You are friends with people that you were in school with when you were younger.
3. At your work place there are many people that you have lunch with daily and you have given them your time and sometimes you have helped them with their work schedule.

At some times of the year you and those around you have conversations that are of a serious nature. Agreeing with each other becomes more difficult as time goes by. The topic of conversation gets heated and it becomes impossible to even reach a consensus. Those times are especially difficult with the child you have raised and dearly love. Long time friendships can be easily dissolved and work environments can be nearly impossible due to the nature of the topic and the high level of disagreeing that all parties involved encounter. Sometimes even friendships are lost. This is not an easy situation and I am sure you have faced it at one time or another in your life. Is there a solution to a situation like this? Shall I just back off and not associate myself with these friends anymore? What can I do to communicate better to my family, my friends, and my work environment? The solution is simple. Give up or.....

This situation existed during the times of Jesus on many occasions. The occasion I would like to draw to your attention occurs after Jesus death, burial, and resurrection. He and His apostles are gathered together and...

*“After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: **“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”**”* (Acts 1:3-4) Some time later Peter and John were speaking to the people of Jerusalem. What they were speaking about was not politically correct at that time and they were confronted by the priests, the temple guard and the Sadducees. (Acts Ch. 4 check it out). Neither side could come to an agreement and Peter and John were thrown in prison. The next day they were released because the leaders of the time were somewhat afraid of the large numbers of people that had heard Peter and John and believed what they were saying. Peter and John had two choices to the problem they were confronting with the political and religious leaders of the time. They could give up or keep on spreading their message. If you paused for a while and went to Ch. 4 of Acts you know their decision, you are aware of their message. Yes, of course they did not give up. Peter, John and the people had one great thing going for them. Yes, read Acts Ch. 4. *“All the believers were one in heart and mind...”* (Acts 4:32) So the obvious question would be... how did they accomplish this state of being one in heart and mind? An excellent question.

So, what about those times when you and friends or family and neighbors have a difficult time agreeing with each other and you honestly would like to be one in heart and mind. You have two options. You can give up or follow the example of Peter and John. They did not give up. They did not leave Jerusalem until they received the “gift” that was promised by the Father. This gift is open for one and all and it makes difficult times less difficult as well as making it possible for believers to be one in heart and mind. Please go and read Acts Chapter 4. The “gift” is spoken about there. Be bold. Chapters 1, 2 and 3 are pretty good too.

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