

SEPTEMBER 2012



Pastor Michael & First Lady

EMANUEL EXPRESSNEWS

3058 West Van Buren - Chicago, IL 60612 - (773) 722-8391 - www.emanuelcogic.com

THE POWER OF UNITY!

September is the Month of

Unity

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Our ministry theme for the month of September is **UNITY**. Without question, unity is much needed in our families, communities and especially in the church. Much can be said about unity. It generates a good and pleasant atmosphere. The psalmist penned in Psalms 133:1, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Jesus knew that unity would be necessary for the success and sustenance of the church so he prayed in St. John 17:21, "*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that*

they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (KJV)

Jesus is saying that it is through our unity; not our division and neither through our mere coming together, that the world will believe that He was sent from the Father and is the Savior of the world!

In this passage of scripture, Jesus was praying for more than the church to just come together. He was praying for more than just church meetings, district meetings, fellowship meetings, conferences, conven-

tions and convocations.

He was praying that the church would be unified for the same purpose, cause and goal.



To illustrate the difference between coming together and unity you can look at the difference between the operations of a spotlight and a laser beam.

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September Unity Colors

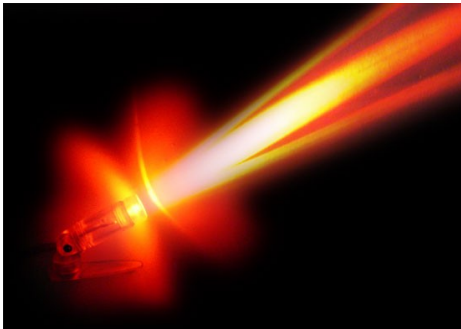
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND—WHITE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH—RED

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH—GREEN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD—PURPLE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH—BROWN

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Both produce light and both require the same electrical power to operate. However, a medium powered laser can burn through steel in a matter of seconds, while the most powerful spotlight can only make it warm. The difference between the operations of the two lights is unity.

When we understand the operation of a laser it will shed light on how we can foster unity and generate the power that Jesus prayed for. First of all a laser can be simply described as a medium of excited molecules with mirrors at each end. Some of these excited molecules naturally decay into a less excited state.

In the decay process they release a photon, which is a particle of light. It is here that the unique process of the laser begins. The photon moves along and stimulates another molecule, inviting another photon to join him on his journey. Then these two photons stimulate two more molecules and invite two more photons to join the parade. Soon there is a huge army of photons marching in step with each other. It is this unity that gives the laser its power.

A spotlight may have just as many photons. However, each one is going its own independent way; occasionally interfering with and hindering other photons. As a result, much of its power is wasted and cannot be focused to do any useful work. On the other hand, the laser, because of its unity, is like an army marching in tight formation. It is able to focus all its power on its objective.

Like the molecules generated by the laser lamps, we are daily dying to the influences of this world. As we die we generate the light of Jesus Christ. As we let our light shine we stimulate others who also die to sin and begin to join the journey with us by also letting their lights shine. Soon there is a huge army of spiritually powered lights who are marching in step with each other with one primary purpose. That purpose is to lift up the name of Jesus and give glory to God.



If the church is going to make a significant impact for Christ in this 21st century, we must stop operating like spotlights and operate like laser beams. When we come together with one agenda to glorify God and to advance His Kingdom in the earth, we will do more than operate like spotlights. We will leave more than a warm impression. We will begin to operate like laser beams. God's power will channel through our efforts and ignite positive radical change that will burn in our homes, neighborhoods and communities so that we can win the world for Christ.

During the month of September, let us endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Let's march in tight formation with one another and focus our energy only on that which gives glory to God.

Be blessed my fellow spiritual photons! May the power of unity be with you.

Pastor Michael A. Richardson