

Where Is the “I”?

“United” and “Untied” are opposite in meaning. “United” means that several people or things are in agreement. “Untied” means that several people or things are in disagreement. The only spelling difference is the placement of the letter “i.”

When husbands and wives have disagreements it is because one or both are placing too much emphasis on the “I” – themselves. Too much emphasis on one’s own ego brings about division – division in families, division in communities, and division in churches.

When Paul gave the human characteristics necessary for a church (or any group) to have unity, he placed great emphasis on each person’s ego. He said, ***“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love”*** Ephesians 4:1-3. Notice how the emphasis is on exalting the other person rather than exalting self. If each person in a dispute will have “humility” and “gentleness” and “patience” and show “tolerance for the other person in love,” there will be a great chance for unity.

Notice the spelling of “united” and “untied.” Notice that for there to be “unity” the “I” must be before the cross (t), not after the cross. Unity can be obtained if those in disagreement kneel before the cross rather than push their way beyond the cross. Having one’s ego submissive to Christ, the person of the cross, is essential for there to be unity between warring parties.

Where is your “I” in regard to the person with whom you are at odds? Finding out where the “I” is will go a long way toward bringing about peace. Where is the “I”?

Wayne Burger