

The Difference of the "I"

John 17:15-26

March 3, 2019

If someone says to you, "Your shoe is untied!"

What do you do?

You stop to look and see if your shoe is untied. If it is then you simply tie your shoe.

Why?

So you don't trip over the untied shoestring and hurt yourself unnecessarily.

It is easy to stop and tie the untied shoestring.

But what about when someone says to us, "Your heart is untied!"

What do we do?

Do we stop and take a look within our heart to see if it is true?

Or do we just keep on living in hopes we don't trip over our heart and hurt ourself or others unnecessarily?

There is a difference of the untied and the united!

The difference is the "I"!

The difference is where the letter "I" is placed.

Untied! But move the letter "I" over one space between the letter "t" and the letter "n" and the word now becomes "united."

Jesus spoke of the difference of the "I" in the closing words of His prayer to His Heavenly Father for his followers. These words were shared in our bible reading from John's gospel. I want us to listen to some of the "I" statements again and ask ourselves where the letter "I" is located in our hearts...un**I**ted with Jesus' prayer or un**I**ted from His prayer.

"I have sent them into the world..."vs. 18

"For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified...(set apart as holy) vs. 19

"I pray also for those who will believe in me...vs. 20

"...that all may be one, as you are in me and I am in you may they also be in us...vs.21

"I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity...vs. 23

United not untied is the will of Jesus for all who believe in Him and live their lives according to His truth.

Jesus prayed that we would be sanctified...set apart for holy purposes by HIS truth...His word is truth. vs. 17

Jesus said, **"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life..."** (John 14:6)

The difference of the "I"!

The difference that unites or unties is Jesus!

The Apostle Paul was confronted with the difference of the "I" and gave his life to Jesus. He would make the powerful proclamation from his heart that was united in Christ:

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

(Galatians 2:20 NIV)

The difference of this "I" is in the heart. I am no longer making the decisions. It is no longer I but Jesus! We are united, not untied, with Christ to live holy lives. I am to live a holy life as Jesus is holy. (I Peter 1:16)

I am! or Am I?

The difference of the "I"!

Where it is placed makes a huge difference in the place we find ourselves living out our faith in Jesus. I am living a life according to Jesus' truth! Or am I living my life according to my truth?

I want to bring us to this challenge of the difference of the "I" with some of the truth challenges of whether I am or Am I?

I am compassionate...Am I?
I am kind...Am I?
I am humble...Am I?
I am gentle...Am I?
I am patient...Am I?
I am forgiving as the Lord is forgiving me...Am I?
I am letting the peace of Christ rule my heart...Am I?
I am letting the word of Christ dwell in me...Am I?
I am giving thanks to God no matter what...Am I?
(Colossians 3:12-17)

Is your heart untied or united in these "I am" truths?
I am or Am I? The difference of the "I"!

I am loving from the center of who I am and not faking it...Am I?
I am running for dear life from evil and holding on for dear life to good...Am I?
I am being a good friend who loves deeply...Am I?
I am being okay about not being first...Am I?
I am not giving up in my faith...Am I?
I am an alert servant of Jesus, cheerfully expectant of His will...
Am I?
I am not going to quit in hard times but pray all the harder...Am I?
I am going to be faithful in prayer...Am I?
I am going to bless those I don't agree with and not backbite them...Am I?
I am going to laugh and cry with my friends...Am I?
I am going to make friends with nobodies...Am I?
I am not going to hit back or insist on getting even...Am I?
I am going to look for the beauty in everyone...Am I?
I am going to let God do the judging...Am I?
(Romans 12:9-18)

Is your heart untied or united in these "I am" truths?
The difference of "I am" or "Am I?"
The difference of the "I"!

Jesus prayed we would be united and not untied.
We are to be united in our witness of the love of Jesus to our
community, family, friends and strangers.
Oneness transcends self-centeredness!

United or untied? The difference of the "I"!
Unity is based on our unity with Jesus!
It is no longer "I" who lives for "I"; but it is Jesus living in me as I
live for Jesus!

Our song is not to be Frank Sinatra's, *"I did it my way!"*
Our song is to be the hymn, *"I surrender all!"*
If we fail to surrender our "I" to Jesus we will trip and get hurt in
life and by life!

Jesus calls us to his table as one: one Lord, one faith, one
baptism (Ephesians 4:5). United not untied.
We come to take the bread and drink from the cup to be
reminded of his love.
We are to come with a heart dead to sin and alive in Christ!
(Romans 6:11)
Is your heart united or untied with Christ?
The difference of the "I"!

The united heart, the "I am" heart, hears the challenge and prays
this prayer:

"If I've gotten anything at all out of following You Christ, if your
love has made any difference in my life, (in my I), if being in
community of the Spirit means anything to me, if I have a united
heart, if I care---then I will unite my heart with others...I will
unite in love. Help me to examine my heart, through Your Holy
Spirit, to daily, and throughout the day, check to see if my heart
is untied or united in You. Remind me now the difference is in
the "I"! Amen!

