

# CCY Connect



SEPT 2020

VOL.2 | ISSUE 9

by: Ryan Porter

## Unique, Not Different

Unity is defined as “a thing forming a complex whole.” In science, a unit is a grouping that helps define like things, and for example, in biology, species is the fundamental unit of classification recognized in zoology and genetics. All humans in the world today are defined as *Homo sapiens*; therefore, in this measurement of unity, all humans are classified the same. Humans are fundamentally different than dogs and cats or even great apes that share the family designation of *Hominidae*. Genetically, humans are so similar that less than 1 percent of the DNA is different from person to person.

When we look at the world around us, however, we draw a different conclusion. Humans have treated each other with great respect or disdain based on perceived differences. Wars have been fought, nations divided, and worse in the name of perceived differences. We even see this on the pages of the Old Testament. God, however, created us to be unique not different. Fundamentally, we are similar because “...God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him” (Genesis 1:27), but we are unique as we read in Psalm 139:13-14, “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” He created humanity for a purpose, and that purpose was to reflect who He is to creation. Along the way, we decided we wanted to reflect ourselves, and this led to the destruction and disorder we see in the world around us.

God implemented the next part of his plan by setting apart the people of Israel. His directive and desire for the nation was to show the world God and help the world to see His glory. The nation was unique from their neighbors, but they were seen as different and a threat. Time after time, we see this occur because the people and leaders of Israel reflected themselves over their unique mission from God. God is not honored, and He brings honor to himself by showing the nation their need for a savior.

Finally, God's plan culminates in His love for mankind through sending Jesus, who is God, as a perfect example and sacrifice. In Jesus' prayer for all believers in John 17:20-23, His plan is revealed,

*“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one — I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”*

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## THIS MONTH AT CCY: September

- 5 Christ's Closet
- 7 Labor Day
- 9 Wednesday night activities resume
- 18 Marriage Night

## MARRIAGE NIGHT

### Speakers



**Matt & Lauren Chandler**

Matt Chandler is the lead pastor of The Village Church. Lauren Chandler is a worship leader.



**Conway & Jada Edwards**

Dr. Conway Edwards is the founding and lead pastor of One Community Church and Jada Edwards is the creative arts director at One Community Church.



**Les & Leslie Parrott**

Marriage experts and New York Times bestselling authors of *Love Talk* and the award-winning *Saving Your Marriage Before it Starts*.



**Michael Jr., Comedian**

Michael Jr. has been featured on *The Tonight Show*, *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, and Comedy Central.

Healthy marriages don't happen by accident. They require work and dedication, but with the busyness of life and the pressures of culture it's easy to lose focus. What is marriage supposed to look like when those initial bursts of excitement give way to everyday troubles and routines?

Dinner and childcare provided.

REGISTER AT

[CCYOK.COM/MARRIAGENIGHT](http://CCYOK.COM/MARRIAGENIGHT)

Unique, Not Different continued

Do you hear the desire of Jesus' prayer for all believers? Unity, but for what purpose. Is it unity to overlook our unique design? Is it unity to create an "Us vs. Them" dynamic? No, it is a call to unity to reflect the glory and love of God through forming a complex whole. Through our unique contributions and gifts to the unity of believers, Christians can reflect God to the world.

In this time, where our differences are separating us as a people, it is important that we seek and pray for the unity Jesus desires so that as unified believers, we might reflect God. When you look at others, see their unique creation as Jesus would look on them. Understand and embrace the unique gifts that God and the Holy Spirit have bestowed on them. Let us embrace our uniqueness while striving for unity for the purpose God has laid before us.

## MAY PARTICIPATION AT CCY

DATE	WORSHIP	SS	ONLINE	GEN. GIVING
8.02.20	97	40	623	\$6,647
8.09.20	86	45	604	\$6,202
8.16.20	102	44	407	\$7,491
8.23.20	115	53	640	\$7,822
8.31.20	115	55	445	\$7,490

WEEKLY NEED: \$7,289

# Pulse

## a youth perspective

by Caleb Pendleton

So far, 2020 has been a whirlwind of emotions and lots of crazy events. Disappointments, fears, sadness, stress, and uncertainty have filled our minds and days. Even though it has been hard, God has led the way throughout this wild process. I have learned a lot about patience, and self-control since the pandemic struck. God doesn't always work the way we want him to. He doesn't sprinkle some magic "patience powder" on us that immediately satisfies us. No, instead, I believe He gives us opportunities to practice patience.

I am so very proud that even throughout COVID, quarantine, school delays, cancelled trips, and disappointment day after day, CCY has persevered and kept the faith, maintaining the notion that church lies in the people and God's relationship with them. We are the church.

CCY has been a part of my life since I was about 7 years old. Since then, I have grown up with the best group of friends I could ask for. It's funny because as my friends and I reach the end of our time as young adults, we sometimes look back on when we were younger with laughter and at times, sadness realizing we're no longer those little kids running around the church with nerf guns. In those younger days, we looked up to the older youth. It's insane to think that we're the older youth now! As we near the end of high school, us guys sometimes feel like our lives are coming to an end, when in all reality it's only beginning. God has been a part of our lives and has watched us all grow so much, throughout all the heart breaks, fights, anxiety, so on and so forth. It's all part of His will and His plan.

All in all, it's been quite a ride! Thank you CCY for helping to raise us and taking us under your wings. We love you and we appreciate you. I would like to leave you with a bit of scripture that I've tried to live by for the past few years. I think it goes with all of the challenges we have faced so far this year.

***"The Lord is close to the broken hearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit." -Psalms 34:18***

## Youth Update

As we move forward in this time of uncertainty, we will begin meeting on Wednesday evening, starting Sept 9th at 6:30pm (doors will open at 6pm). To ensure everyone's safety, masks will be mandatory. At-the-door check in will include temperature checks and use of hand sanitizer. Distancing during worship and lessons will be encouraged!

With the new school year underway, please keep students, parents, and teachers in your prayers and show them our love and encouragement. If you are a student or have a student, please connect with us by texting @ccyyouth to (856)282-2708 for information about youth events

Blessings to you and your family,  
Pastor Chris Miller

