

## TRANSCRIPT for Episode 3 “Risky Unity & Healthy Boundaries!”

Steve Pixler:

Hello everyone. Welcome back to “Unleashing the Kingdom” with your host Susan Dewbrew and me, the co-host Steve Pixler. I am really glad to be back with you guys as I know Susan is to talk more about the Kingdom of God. This is gonna be a lot of fun again today we're gonna be talking again just a little bit about John chapter 17, and then we are going to leap over into 1 Corinthians, talk a little bit about unity in the body of Christ, and specifically how that relates to men and women. Speaking of men and women, we want to remind you of *Unleashing the Kingdom*, the brand-new three-book series. Yes. There you go. Produced by Susan. And of course, this is published by Kingdom Brewing, which is the ministry of Gregory and Susan Dewbrew. These people are amazing. And I'm the ghostwriter. That's right. Holy Ghostwriter. I love to say.

So, these books are available now at [kingdombrewing.com](http://kingdombrewing.com). Jump in, get your copy. You can get them now in print and eBook. And the first audiobook is soon to be released and not too long from now we will have all the audiobooks available. Also, an online course is coming. Just some great resources that we're looking to produce with “Unleashing the Kingdom.” You guys ready to go? Let's jump in a little bit deeper as we look back at John 17 and 1 Corinthians.

All right, Susan, let's talk a little bit about John 17 again. We had so much fun in our last episode talking about unity from Jesus' perspective, how much it matters to him, to the Father, all of that, and how much it really matters in the real world.

Susan Dewbrew:

Well, I think for me, it's a core value, obviously it's my life chapter, but it was Jesus' high priestly prayer. It was his heart cry before he went to the cross. And so it was of utter importance to him. And I love how he boiled it down to, you know, Father they're gonna be one when it's, I'm in them and you're in me.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

And it's that perichoretic union of that flow of the Spirit and the relationship between the Father and the Son, and the relationship between the Son and us--

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <Affirmative>

Susan Dewbrew:

And then the relationship between all of us with him. Because if it just boils down to our relationship with Jesus, we miss the point.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

And I think that that's the idea of unity, is that first we're united to the Lord. First we're connected with him because if we fail to understand it's not about knowing him, it's not about knowing about him-

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm <affirmative>

Susan Dewbrew:

But it's actually being in relationship, like knowing him on a personal level. That's what changes things.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

Because you can know a lot about the president of the United States. I could study his whole history. I could even know his family background. I could know it all. But the truth is, is that if I don't have relationship with him, I don't really know him.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

And this is eternal life that you know, the father.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

And it's when the Spirit comes to dwell inside of us, the born-again experience, if you will, when we actually yield to him, cuz it's a voluntary Kingdom, which we'll talk about in another podcast.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

Because it's all about freedom.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

And when we yield to him, then he comes and takes residence in us. Now we're united with Jesus. And when you have the Spirit, now we have a means to connect in a healthy way with one another.

Steve Pixler:

Yes. Yes. Yes.

Susan Dewbrew:

And that's what transforms the world,

Steve Pixler:

Which really the Holy Spirit really is the interface between humans. And that's why human unity when attempted politically or economically, or even religiously when it's attempted through any other means, it's really frustrated and frustrating because really it's almost like, back in the old days, especially trying to get Mac applications and Windows applications to cooperate.

Susan Dewbrew:

They don't like to talk each other.

Steve Pixler:

They don't like to talk to each other. And the truth is, you had to end up having an interface of some kind to make the two things talk. That's true.

Susan Dewbrew:

Because they were coming from two different points of view.

Steve Pixler:

Exactly. Right. And so that's true with humans.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah.

Steve Pixler:

And so in a marriage or anything else. So when Holy Spirit comes in, he actually creates that interface, that connection that allows us, first of all, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians, to be able to hear the heart of the Father. So the Holy Spirit actually interprets spiritual things to spiritual people, as Paul says.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah.

Steve Pixler:

But then he also does that between the members of the body and he makes us one as the Holy Spirit provides that basis.

Susan Dewbrew:

And I think it's important when we look at how the Trinity, they are very distinct.

Steve Pixler:

Yes.

Susan Dewbrew:

The Son isn't lost and loses his identity because he's in union with the Father.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

And the Holy Spirit doesn't have to be the exact representation of Jesus. Meaning he doesn't lose the fact that, you know he exhibits a lot of the feminine attributes of God.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

He doesn't have to look more, and I don't like use he or she, I use He, because I've been reared that way and I'm comfortable that way.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

But it doesn't mean like the Holy Spirit is masculine.

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

Susan Dewbrew:

God is both masculine and feminine.

Steve Pixler:

Yes.

Susan Dewbrew:

But the idea is that the Father--

Steve Pixler:

Otherwise, where did the feminine come from? That's right. Right. It comes from God.

Susan Dewbrew:

We are made in his image and in his likeness, plural with masculine and feminine.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

But I think with the idea that Trinity being in unity and being in unison, the whole point is that they're not lost.

Steve Pixler:

Yes.

Susan Dewbrew:

That one doesn't disappear to become one with the other. And so, when Jesus created us perfectly, it's not, you know what John the Baptist said, "Less of me and more of him."

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <Affirmative>

Susan Dewbrew:

And sometimes we'll take that verse, , and we mean well less of me and more of him, but I love Bill Johnson when he said, "If he wanted less of you, he wouldn't have created you to start with. "

Steve Pixler:

That's right.

Susan Dewbrew:

He might want less of your worldliness.

Steve Pixler:

Right, right.

Susan Dewbrew:

But not less of who you really are. He wants you fully alive and he wants you to fully show up and in unity with other people, when we're really authentically present and we're not diminishing or hiding ourself in order to be in relationship with somebody else, now we're letting the Spirit connect us at a powerful level.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

As opposed to in order to be in relationship with you, I have to hide who I am. I have to diminish my glory. I have to limit my voice in order for us to get along. And unity is not just getting along, not biblical unity is not just getting along, it's actually becoming joined to one another where the two, when we come into a healthy relationship, we can move mountains because it's greater things that we'll do. And it's greater things that we'll do because we're a collective unity. Not because we're an individual.

Steve Pixler:

So I think one of the things that really stood out to me from our last episode is, and I mentioned in that episode that I think in maps, so I tend to--

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah.

Steve Pixler:

See things worked out, you know, in, in maps. But I think the thing that really stood out most to me was that, that unity is rooted in the unity with the Father and the unity the Father, Son and Spirit have within the triune life of God.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yes.

Steve Pixler:

And that when we discover that unity and it becomes the basis of our identity, then I can now have unity with you or with whomever. And then the third thing was the first thing being unity with the Father produces the capacity for unity with each other. Then the third thing was, and then that presents a witness to the world --

Susan Dewbrew:

Mm-Hmm. <Affirmative>

Steve Pixler:

That actually causes the world to see the glory of the Father manifest in us.

And so we talked a little bit in our last episode about glory and about how unity and glory go together.

Susan Dewbrew:

They do.

Steve Pixler:

And it's all really identity related and, and identity rooted. And so the whole John 17 thing and the unity of the triune God, we being invited into that unity, being invited to come into who he is and thus discover who we are, which then allows me to know you and to be known of you and other people. That fundamental process we see in John 17 is ultimately God's greatest desire.

Susan Dewbrew:

It is.

Steve Pixler:

And it becomes the basis for everything the Kingdom is doing in the world, which is what we're saying when we say that the unity of men and women--

Susan Dewbrew:

Yes.

Steve Pixler:

Really does unleash the Kingdom. So anything further about John 17 that you want to kind of put a bow on before we move on?

Susan Dewbrew:

I do. I think that the last thought is, is that there is no way for us to achieve that kind of unity to become one unless we begin to honor the fact that the Holy Spirit is in you.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

When he says, "I in you and me." So my capacity to look at you and not just look at Steve Pixler, but to understand the same Holy Spirit that's residing in me is residing in you. And so honor actually becomes--

Steve Pixler:

Wow.

Susan Dewbrew:

The key to the unity that's released. And there is no honor without giving you permission to be distinctly you. And uniquely you. And you don't have to conform to my ideas. In order for me to be loving to you and accepting of you. Now, we may not be partnered up. You know, in the Kingdom.

You could, one person be an eye, one person be a hand, like you could be called to the mission field. Like you have a heart for Uganda or Africa or evangelism in general.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

And so you're gonna draw people to yourself who have that same heartbeat. That part of the father being expressed. And so you guys will become more united. And I think it's important in our culture, the enemy has done a really great job of breaking down relationships in general. So we don't understand how humans are supposed to relate to one another.

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

Susan Dewbrew:

And if we could go back and we just look at an individual and we understand that the kingdom resides in the heart.

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <Affirmative>

Susan Dewbrew:

And everything that we do in the world, everything we say, what we choose, all of our life application comes from what we truly believe in our heart about ourself, about others, about the Lord.

And so if I'm living out of my heart, that expression can't really be fully made unless I'm in healthy connection with other people. So for example, the innermost core of my heart is with the Father and the Father alone or with Jesus with God.

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm.

Susan Dewbrew:

And then from there, one concentric circle out is my spouse or my very best friend, my parent, if I'm young. Right. You only have a capacity to have that level of intimacy with one person.

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

Susan Dewbrew:

And if you're having that level of intimacy with anyone other than your spouse and you're married --

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <Affirmative>

Susan Dewbrew:

Like things in your life are gonna be off kilter.

Steve Pixler:

That's right.

Susan Dewbrew:

We're only designed to have that level of intimacy with one and one alone.

And in our world, we'll tend to just give that away without understanding it's a value.

Steve Pixler:



Oh, that's the truth.

Susan Dewbrew:

And it tears our soul apart.

Steve Pixler:

And then it ends up having generational consequences.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah. Generational consequences. And then when you finally do get married or find that one spouse, now you're bringing in all of this baggage and all this pain--

Steve Pixler:

True, true.

Susan Dewbrew:

With it. And so it takes a lot of healing and redemption to heal that inner part of our relationship. And then if you move one more circle out from that, you have room for a few. Like, you can't be, you know, intimate friends with a hundred people. Like Jesus didn't even do that and he was God in the flesh. You know?

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

And so if he didn't have the human capacity to do that, we can't do it either. But we do need some. And if we keep everybody out here at arm's length, we're also off kilter. Like we have to find people and be authentic and real with people in order to develop those kind of relationships. And then the further out from your heart you go, the more capacity you have to have more people in those relationships with you. And it's really comes down to finding your tribe.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

And finding people that you really can connect with and run together with. And when you do, you begin to release the Kingdom at an exponential level.

Steve Pixler:

Wow.

Susan Dewbrew:

I know, that's my been my walk anyway. And it's not easy to find those people.

Steve Pixler:

Right. Right. And so you mentioned in the last episode, and this echoes that again, that when you talk about unity, you're not talking about being boundaryless.

Susan Dewbrew:

No.

Steve Pixler:

We're not talking about no boundaries. We're not saying that because you are in Christ and, and you're one with all the members of Christ, therefore, you know, all the members of the body have the right to just waltz into that, you know, most inner most part of your heart. That deepest part of intimacy. I really like the way you've laid that out kind of in concentric circles. You're saying sort of like ripples on the pond.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah.

Steve Pixler:

That, you know, the, the further you go out, the bigger the group, the bigger the ring is.

Susan Dewbrew:

I can have lots of people way out here. That's right. That could just be we're all Texans. We're all Americans.

Steve Pixler:

We, identify together.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah.

Steve Pixler:

But that core belongs, and it's very protected, it belongs to the people who are deepest in your relationship and in your heart. So I really think that's a powerful idea because I think many people recoil at the unity message because they have suffered such trauma and pain from relationships.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah.

Steve Pixler:

That the idea of having to forgive and align and be one and unite and let--

Susan Dewbrew:

People in again--

Steve Pixler:

<singing> You're my brother, you're my sister.

Now let's all just hold hands.

Susan Dewbrew:

But some of 'em really might just be cousins and friends and neighbors and coworkers or you know.

Steve Pixler:

And let's hold hands and can't we all get along? And there's some people who, they're very afraid of that. And so they retreat, they withdraw. I've seen this a lot in people that have experienced church hurt. A little bit of a rabbit trail. I won't take it too far.

Susan Dewbrew:

No, this is good. This is the real how it plays out in the real world. We can do another podcast to finish later if we need to.

Steve Pixler:

Yes. You see people on that have experienced church hurt, they will often withdraw into forms of Christianity that allow them to practice their faith alone.

Susan Dewbrew:

Ooh. But that is actually not the faith.

Steve Pixler:

I know.

Susan Dewbrew:

Because it does take faith to connect with people.

Steve Pixler:

Yes, it does.

Susan Dewbrew:

And so, but we're not supposed to be intimate with everybody.

Steve Pixler:

That's right.

Susan Dewbrew:

And people who we are intimate with still have a free will to hurt us. And it is risky.

Steve Pixler:

Yes.

Susan Dewbrew:

There is no guarantee that you won't have pain. And a matter of fact, I think in this world you're gonna have tribulation. You know, I don't, I think that we live in a fallen world and hurt people hurt people.

Steve Pixler:

Yes.

Susan Dewbrew:

But the more we ourselves get inner healing, the more we're able to discern who else is safe. And it does not mean that they may not make a mistake and hurt you, but usually healthy people can circle back around and heal the wounds.

Steve Pixler:

Yes.

Susan Dewbrew:

Clean up their mess. Like if I, if I were to hurt you or Jeana, I would pray that I would be very quick to see it. Very quick to repent and to clean up my mess. Like, how did I do that? How did I go wrong? Lord, help me to know how I missed it. Take responsibility for it.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

And then circle back and repent and just say, "I need help not doing that again." You know? Give me permission to be human. But don't let pride say, well, it was your fault, not my fault if I was the one that made the mess. And when we do that, actually trust is built in these places that are actually strongest in the places that have had something broken and then glued back together.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

So kinda like two pieces of wood, if they're broken and you glue them back together, that place of that bond that's reinforced with a Holy Spirit glue is actually stronger than where the wood is where it had never had a break before. And I feel like the Lord is saying, "Sometimes we will mess up and it's okay" because we're building a stronger edifice to know, I will actually trust you more if we've walked through something and I know now how you're gonna handle messing up.

Steve Pixler:

I was just thinking as you were saying that about, you know, Jean and I have been married almost 28 years next month and I don't trust her completely and wholly, which I do, I don't trust her wholly and

completely because we've never had problems. I trust her wholly and completely because I now know how she will react when we do have problems when we do have times of disagreement.

Susan Dewbrew:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

Steve Pixler:

And even if I feel she's done me wrong or if I've done her wrong, maybe I need her to forgive me cuz I did her wrong--

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah.

Steve Pixler:

I now know that she has a forgiving heart. Now I can trust her because we've been through the fire.

Susan Dewbrew:

Right. And you loved her the day you married her.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

But you have grown in intimacy.

Steve Pixler:

I didn't know what I didn't know at that point. I had no idea. I thought my love for her was, was perfect. It was full and complete

Susan Dewbrew:

And you would never make a mistake.

Steve Pixler:

Right. It's only as we've lived through the pain that I've actually really learned, you know what real love really, really is, you know, love doesn't look like a wedding day. Love looks like an old couple, you know, maybe in the hospital, one lying in a bed, you know, and the other one holding the hand.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah.

Steve Pixler:

That's what love really looks like.

Susan Dewbrew:

It lays down its life for the other.

Steve Pixler:

That's right.

Susan Dewbrew:

It does. And in our world, our world has become so broken, we don't understand healthy relationships. Most of us have never been raised in healthy homes to start with. So from a child on, we didn't see it demonstrated to us.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

And so I know when I was growing up, my most intimate connections in my teenage years were other kids.

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm.

Susan Dewbrew:

They weren't my healthy adults. And so kids are messy. And kids coming from broken homes are messy.

Steve Pixler:

Yes.

Susan Dewbrew:

And so, because we didn't understand it, each one of those centric circles outside of your heart, consider those circles like boundaries

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <Affirmative>

Susan Dewbrew:

And so someone has to earn the right to come from, hey, I just met you, you're an acquaintance in through those layers into becoming an intimate friend. And if it's a boyfriend or a girlfriend, like in today's world, you could meet them at a bar and take them all the way into your bedroom.

Steve Pixler:

That's right.

Susan Dewbrew:

Not understanding the spiritual significance of the marriage bed. And so part of your heart and part of your soul gets left in all of these strange places and you wonder why you're miserable and broken, but thank you Jesus, that he actually can come and break off the soul ties and he can restore all of those broken, shattered pieces of your heart back into a hole. And give you the knowledge and the wisdom and understanding to say okay, as I'm meeting someone, I'm discerning--

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

And through time, through experience, they can journey through those levels of relationship into a place where I really trust them.

Like when I met you and Jeana two years ago, we weren't gonna be sitting at a table like this.

Steve Pixler:

Yes. Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

Right. We might have liked each other. But we were way out here.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

It only comes through time in relationship that we understand now. We really have the same vision. We really have the same heart for the Lord. We really wanna see people healed and holy and delivered in the Kingdom set on fire. And you know, to the unification of the body of the Christ, the unity of the churches, because our hearts are, are beating in the same message. We know we're connected to do that, to do this in this season.

Steve Pixler:

Well, as a pastor I've even learned and that, not that, not that I'm always, you know, looking at people with a skeptical eye cuz I actually tend to be pretty open to people and sometimes too naive, honestly. But I have learned with leading a church for a long time, I have learned that oftentimes the people who flatter me the most, the soonest, are the ones I need to watch. Because oftentimes because they're so willing to open up their heart and say this is, this is what I've been looking for all my life. You're the greatest preacher I've ever heard. Oh my God, this is what I've been dreaming of. The other church all around are horrible. But this one is just unbelievably good. And I'm thinking, but the truth is your willingness to commit to us on that level so quick means of course that you're gonna have expectations we can't meet. You're gonna end up getting hurt. And it's probably gonna be in just a few weeks you are going to be down the road.

Susan Dewbrew:

They jumped from out here to in here.

Steve Pixler:

And it's just too soon. The Lord gave me a phrase tested, then trusted. And that's been a kind of a guiding principle for me with people. And you do have to, and I think this is so powerful with what you're saying, and I really appreciate you emphasizing it, that unity doesn't just mean immediate intimacy, but it does mean that you walk with Holy Spirit into relationship with people. And as we find our alignment with the Father, we can then find our alignment with each other.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yes.

Steve Pixler:

But it's not just this And, and I see this over and over. I see people, they have this, this unrealistic expectation of the church, for example, that, and I hear people say, "We're a family, we're a family." Well, we are a family, but you still have to grow into relationship with one another.

Susan Dewbrew:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

Steve Pixler:

And some of the worst relationships in the world are in a family

Susan Dewbrew:

<Laugh> because we become really real.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah, that's right.

Susan Dewbrew:

And we see ourself. If there is selfishness in us it's gonna come out. If there is pride in us, it's gonna come out as, because in a family, we start to let our walls down. Especially in an immediate family. And again, the circles, right?

Steve Pixler:

Yes.

Susan Dewbrew:

You have an immediate family and then you have extended family. You know, and then you have in-laws, you have layers even within family. So, you know, even if we have a church of a hundred people, you can't be best friends with a hundred people.

Steve Pixler:

You can't.

Susan Dewbrew:



You can't, you can't have a hundred, well, if you had a hundred children, you're probably having children that were raising the other children.

And so they become more of a parent figure. And so I think that when we don't have an expectation that the leader has to be our best friend. I think that comes from, again, that pyramid power structure model. That when we always look at that, we end up walking into an environment and because we know we're called to the Kingdom. Right. Every person who's born again knows they have a calling in Christ. They all sense it and feel it every single one of 'em. Especially if they have any fire in them for the Lord at all. And so because they don't understand the Kingdom is everywhere. It's in their work, it's in their school, it's in their home, it's in church. Church is just one aspect of the Kingdom. But if they don't have that mindset and they think that the Kingdom is only at church, then they'll come into church with this expectation that I have to rise to the top, if you will.

Steve Pixler:

Right. Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

And with, it's a false paradigm. But I have to rise and get to close to the, the ones that are standing out and leading and organizing, because my significance comes to how close to the powerful ones I can become. And so they vie for those positions. And when they're in that kind of an environment and multiple people feel that way, you create a culture that's full of envy and strife and jealousy and competition and every evil thing the Bible says.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

But if they're coming into that culture knowing like, I'm, I'm here to give and to receive at a healthy level. Like, I'm here to get to know people and while I'm here, I'm gonna also give a little at a time.

Steve Pixler:

Yes.

Susan Dewbrew:

Like, I'm not gonna walk in and say, Hey, I wanna be best friends with a grand poopah.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

Actually, I want to be the grand poopah. Or I expect I'm gonna walk in and I expect you to fix me. I expect you to serve me because that's what the church is supposed to do.

Steve Pixler:

Right. Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

And that just creates unhealthy--

Steve Pixler:

It really does.

Susan Dewbrew:

Relationships. And no wonder most of us have had church hurt. Because we've been bit by sheep. And sheep have been disappointed because they had false expectations of what church was supposed to do for them.

Steve Pixler:

So speaking of church--

Susan Dewbrew:

And speaking of unity and all of that, this leads us into 1 Corinthians.

Steve Pixler:

Yes.

Susan Dewbrew:

Now, one of the reasons why we want to jump to 1 Corinthians is of course, that 1 Corinthians 14 has one of the primary verses that used to silence women. Now, a big part of our message in *Unleashing the Kingdom* revolves around the unity of men and women. And so the reason for that is, as we discussed just a bit in the last couple of episodes, and it's a foundational idea that we'll talk about over and over and over and this podcast. But the unity of men and women is the foundation for the unity of all humanity. It starts there.

Susan Dewbrew:

If you don't start at that innermost relationship, then every other relationship coming out is gonna be off kilter.

Steve Pixler:

Exactly. Right. So the unity of men and women is a huge part of our message. Of course. The books that, that we've written together, *Unleashing the Kingdom*, it's about taking dominion through the unity of men and women. And one of the principle ideas that we discuss is that Satan divided male and female, man and woman, husband and wife at the very root of human relationships.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yes.

Steve Pixler:

And that division then, talk about ripple effect, it then works out into every other relationship. So when we go to 1 Corinthians, we see the scripture that's often used to silence women, which we deal with in great detail in the book--

Susan Dewbrew:

Book one.

Steve Pixler:

And you'll find out in book one that Paul actually didn't even say that at all, that he was actually quoting false teachers, which we can talk more about later. But I think the larger point right now is the overall message of 1 Corinthians--

Susan Dewbrew:

Mm-Hmm. <Affirmative>

Steve Pixler:

Is the unity of the body. So you mentioned just a moment ago, and you can take this and explain a little bit more, but you mentioned that the body may have an eye, an ear, a hand, a foot. So talk a little bit about the unity of the body and how that flows out of John 17.

Susan Dewbrew:

So in John 17, when Jesus says "They're gonna be one with me flowing in them like I am in a relationship with you, Father, you actually in me and I in them," that's how they're gonna be won. Right. So when you jump to 1 Corinthians, especially in chapter 12, it starts with the idea of now concerning spiritual gifts. So each one of us may have a different gift set. Some of us may have just be a teacher, a prophet, an evangelist, you know, a healer. You know I love 1 Corinthians 12, especially because it talks about a lot of powerful spiritual gifts that you and I cannot do apart from the Holy Spirit.

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

Susan Dewbrew:

I cannot heal apart from the Holy Spirit.

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

Susan Dewbrew:

I cannot accurately prophesy apart from the Holy Spirit. I might be able to sing if I'm a singer, but it might not release his Spirit unless it's connected with him.

So the whole idea is about being one with each other, the same way that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one in this union, this ebb and this flow of relationship, this loving mutual indwelling, and now the Holy Spirit is dwelling in you and he's dwelling in me. And when we begin to flow,

understanding it's the same Spirit that's connecting you and it's connecting me, and I'm honoring and yielding to you, and you're honoring and yielding to me.

Now, when I come up and I have a psalm or a revelation, or in a tongue or an interpretation, that's great. You'll yield to me and then I will in honor yield to you and not try to over talk each other, create this chaotic atmosphere, which Paul was trying to address in 1 Corinthians. Because if you're operating, even if you have a spiritual gift, but you're still operating in the flesh--

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

It doesn't flow in this beautiful honoring right. Manner. And he starts off first in Corinthians 12 talking about, there's all of these variety of gifts that he wants us to understand are so important, and he wants us to, to earnestly desire and pursue them. But he, wants us to understand. But there's one Spirit. He says that over and over, like you could start counting this like, you know, 10 or 12 times he talks, like's all of these gifts. But there's one Spirit. There's all of these gifts, but there's one God, it's all in him and through him. And when we understand, like, oh, that's what he was talking about in John 17. That's how John 17 begins to play out in our everyday world is you know, I am connected to you by the Spirit.

Steve Pixler:

By the Spirit. Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

And when I am letting this Spirit flow through me, and you're letting the Spirit flow through you. Now we really are connected to this same head.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

And if I have the mind of Christ and you have the mind of Christ, we're not going to be hurting each other or vying or, you know, it's like, again, we're not perfect at it, so I can step into the flesh and feel hurt or something or say something I shouldn't. But when we understand that, when we continually circle back to, Lord, let me see the person who just hurt me through your eyes.

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm.

Susan Dewbrew:

I can begin to understand, okay, they did that because they were hurt from a past church hurt or something. Like if I react to you that way, so for example, when I married Gregory, who is my hero, I had been through a 20 year marriage that was very difficult--

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm <affirmative>

Susan Dewbrew:

And so it's like I had these knives sticking out of my heart. Right? That sometimes if he came and he would just brush by them, it was as if there was a new wound, a new knife being stuck in and he wasn't doing anything wrong at all.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

And he would have to tell me like, I'm not him. I would react to him from a fleshly wound. But he wasn't the one creating that wound. And he would gently help me to see that's not what was really happening in the moment. And then I could go work on getting my heart healed so that my relationship with him would be more wholesome.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

And I would stop looking at him as the problem when he wasn't even the one that stuck the knife in to start with.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

And so when the Holy Spirit is in us and leading us, we can begin to become one because we are all part of Christ's body. If I try to live the Christian life all by myself, I am being deceived. It is not how it works. We collectively are his temple, even though he dwells in me and I'm his temple.

Steve Pixler:

Yes. And so as that works out in 1 Corinthians, of course the whole book really is given to the theme of unity. Because he starts off, you know, in, in the first four chapters is about the, you know, the very real present, in real time division that they were having at Corinth.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah.

Steve Pixler:

Over I'm of Apollos, I'm of Cephus, I'm of Paul,--

Susan Dewbrew:

All these contentions.

Steve Pixler:

I'm of Jesus, you know, I'm of Christ. And had all these, these groups that were dividing these, you know, fragmented groups within the church. And so he talks about all of that. And then you, into chapter five and six, he talks about the immorality that was in the church. And then chapter seven, you know, many of the couples were breaking up because they had this call to celibacy, they thought, so he talks about celibacy and in that he also refers to marriage and divorce and being single and all those things. Chapter eight, he goes into talking about, you know, meat and whether or not what you can eat, what you can't. Chapter nine, he talks about his ministry and what he's allowed to do in chapter 10, he's back into meat offer to idols. And chapter 11, that's that famous chapter about head coverings and then communion.

Susan Dewbrew:

Oh, we're gonna do a whole podcast on that one.

Steve Pixler:

Oh, exactly Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

That's an awesome one.

Steve Pixler:

There's a lot of that in book three, by the way. But so all of it then when he gets to chapter 12 and you know, all of a sudden here comes the, you know, spiritual gifts bursting on the scene. He's not changing the subject.

Susan Dewbrew:

No.

Steve Pixler:

He's still talking about the same thing, which is what unity looks like in a practical environment. Where people are having affairs with other people's wives, where they're eating meat offered the idols and fussing over what they can and can't eat, where they're fussing--

Susan Dewbrew:

They're not leaning in and letting the him be Lord are they?

Steve Pixler:

Exactly right. Yeah. And they're fighting over communion. They're dividing, they're using communion--

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah.

Steve Pixler:

To divide when it was meant to unite, you know, here's communion for the slaves, here's communion for the free, here's the men, here's the women, here's the rich, here's the Jew, here's the Gentile, here's

the rich, here's the poor. And Paul says, "No, you're not discerning the Lord's body." And so all the way through, everything's about the unity of the body. Then he comes into spiritual gifts. And then that takes us to chapter 13.

Susan Dewbrew:

The love chapter.

Steve Pixler:

Which is the ultimate point of the entire book. So talk about the love chapter as the expression of unity. You talk about it some in the books.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah. Well, for, for me, I think it was actually an eye-opening experience for me when I began to understand that God is love.

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

Susan Dewbrew:

It's not just that he loves that he is love and he actually is all of those attributes. Like love is patient, love is kind. Love doesn't seek its own. Love doesn't keep a record of wrongs. And I'm thinking, oh, I thought all of my sins were like being written down and gonna be in this scale and weighed against me.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

And so, the reason why he lists them there is that if you are not operating in love, you are just a clanging gong and a noisy symbol. You're not actually releasing the Kingdom. If you're even preaching or singing or giving a revelation or doing all of these wonderful, you could even heal the sick and cast out devils in his name and have him say, depart from me I never knew you because you were not operating in love. And he is love. So again, that's, you know, the father in Jesus and Jesus in us, it's that flow of what is God. God is love. Although he's personal, he's not just the force be with you, the love be with you.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

He's a personal being who created us to be persons in his image. And so for me, the love chapter is the anchor that puts all of it into perspective. And if I am not being kind, if I'm being selfish, if I'm being rude, if I'm keeping a record of wrongs or doing any of the attribute not operating in those attributes, to me it's like a thermometer to tell me where I'm off

Steve Pixler:

Yeah. Well that's really good.

Susan Dewbrew:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

Steve Pixler:

So chapters 12, 13, 14, he's talking about spiritual gifts. And love is right at the very heart of all of it because he's saying the gifts have been given to unify and edify the body. You've turned the gifts into a form of self-promotion.

Susan Dewbrew:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

Steve Pixler:

You're using tongues particularly that was the one they were abusing the most. You're using the, you know, to stand up and speak in tongues makes you look super spiritual. So you have these services where everyone is just doing all this tongue speaking and no interpretations are being offered.

Susan Dewbrew:

And so the body wasn't being edified. If we don't know what you're saying, if we don't know what the Lord is trying to communicate, how are we being edified?

Steve Pixler:

He said, "It's like a trumpet giving an uncertain sound, who prepares himself for battle."

Susan Dewbrew:

Right. Now, if I'm talking in tongues to the Lord in my prayer closet, it's only me and him. It builds me up.

Steve Pixler:

That's right. Or even in a church service, as long as it's not taking the floor. Because that's what they were all doing. They were all taking the floor and just demonstrating their proficiency in tongues.

Susan Dewbrew:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

Steve Pixler:

And Paul says, "All you're doing is just sort of crowing about how spiritual you are. When in reality the gifts were given to unify the body."

So--

Susan Dewbrew:

And love said it doesn't boast.

Steve Pixler:



It doesn't boast. It's not self-promoting. So then you come into chapter 14, he goes back into a deeper discussion, particularly of tongues and prophecy. And then here we go. We get to verses 34, 35, 36. And here comes in the middle of all of this, and this is how we'll wrap up this episode today, and then we'll come back and talk some more about it later. Book one by the way, if you really want to dig into the details--

Susan Dewbrew:

The woman's place.

Steve Pixler:

That's right. Get into that one. Cuz it really talks about 1 Corinthians 14. But we get to those verses and all of a sudden after all of this on unity and how the spirit makes us all one then suddenly comes this jarring discordant command out of nowhere shush the women. So talk about that for just a moment and how that flows with all of 1 Corinthians.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah. So all of 1 Corinthians is about unity. And then in 12, he's so clear about every single one of us has spiritual gifts. Every one of us should be operating in them. We yield to one another. We love one another. We understand it is the same Spirit flowing through all of us. Love tells how that's demonstrated and how we can measure, are we actually operating in the Spirit? And then in 14 he starts talking about how like, not everybody's an eye, not everybody's a hand.

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

Susan Dewbrew:

Like we all have different parts of one body.

Steve Pixler:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

Susan Dewbrew:

We are all part, we're all important. And every single one of us has a role. And he starts talking about someone has a song, one has a revelation, one has a tongue, one has an interpretation, but it's to be done in order.

Like, I'm not just cuz I have, I feel like the Lord's given me a word and you're talking like, I'm not going to jump in and be rude and cut you off. We're gonna understand the Holy Spirit's gonna orchestrate it. And if I'm yielding to you, then the Lord will set it up in the right tone.

Okay. So the whole point of chapter after chapter now is every single person is important. Every single person has a voice, every single person has a role. And then we get to verse 34 and chapter 12. And it says, 'silence your women. Keep them silent.'

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

In the Greek it actually says it twice. In the beginning of the sentence in English, they try to soften it a little.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah. <laugh>.

Susan Dewbrew:

And they just say, women should keep silent in the church. But actually that verse starts with that double, the word silence there is twice, which almost like they're hollering "Silence your women."

Steve Pixler:

Silence. Silence,

Susan Dewbrew:

Silence.

And it says, 'Women are not permitted to speak. Silence your women.' And I'll read it real quick in verse four--

Steve Pixler:

14.

Susan Dewbrew:

Mm-Hmm. <Affirmative>

Yeah. Sorry, my bible's falling apart. I meant to--

Steve Pixler:

This Bible has been well used.

Susan Dewbrew:

It has, it's my favorite one cuz I like the big margins where I take notes.

Steve Pixler:

It's very interesting to me that the pages that are coming loose are 1 Corinthians 14

Susan Dewbrew:

<Laugh>. Think I've been there a minute?

Steve Pixler:

You spent some time there.

Susan Dewbrew:

I have. I have. All right. So verse 34 says, the women are to keep silent in the churches for they are not permitted to speak. And the word there for speak, you know it, it's actually talking about no sound coming out of your mouth. Right.

Steve Pixler:

No, no, no. Emphasize that the word speak is actually no sound coming out of your mouth.

Susan Dewbrew:

No, none.

Steve Pixler:

It's not just speak as in to make an oration.

Susan Dewbrew:

No.

It's not a speech.

Susan Dewbrew:

No, no sound.

Steve Pixler:

But it is no sound.

Susan Dewbrew:

And twice before that it said silence, which is an absence of sounds.

Steve Pixler:

So, this scripture actually says, "Let the women make no sound, let no sound come out of their mouth."

Susan Dewbrew:

Three times in that one verse. Three times in the first verse here. Three times.

Steve Pixler:

Wow.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yep. "The women are to keep silent in the churches for, they're not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves just as the law also says." So, here's the gospel preacher of freedom. Of not being subject to the law.

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

And he says, 'but the women are to be subject to the law.' And so that's a little confusing. So it's like, Christ came for the men, but not the women. Number one, we know that's not true. So there's a flag there that something's wrong. Because this is Paul saying that. And he said, "Don't yoke yourself" in Galatians 5, "Don't be yoked again to a spirit of slavery to the law."

Steve Pixler:

Yeah and he says, "if you try to keep the law, you've fallen from grace."

Susan Dewbrew:

Right.

Steve Pixler:

I mean, he's just bold about that in Galatians and other places.

Susan Dewbrew:

So why do the women have to be subject to the law? And then here's another flag. Nowhere in the biblical law does it say anything about women being silent or subject to the men. It doesn't say that.

Steve Pixler:

Which scholars have agonized over for generations trying to figure out where did he get that from? Cuz it's not there.

Susan Dewbrew:

It's not there--

Steve Pixler:

So it's not Paul.

Susan Dewbrew:

If you're only looking at the Torah or the Old Testament, it's just not there.

Susan Dewbrew:

Right. Which is what we refer to as the law. And so--

Steve Pixler:

What's he talking about?

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah. Or is it Paul?

Steve Pixler:

Yeah.

Susan Dewbrew:

Right. Okay. So then it goes and it says, "If they desire to learn anything, if"? <laugh>

Steve Pixler:

<Laugh>.

Susan Dewbrew:

Right. We think, we think about coming together in, in these meetings to learn and to grow.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

"Well, if they wanna learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home for, it is improper for a woman to speak in church." And it actually means if you look at the Greek, it actually means it is disgraceful.

Steve Pixler:

It's a disgrace.

Susan Dewbrew:

Shameful for a woman to utter sound in the assembly.

Steve Pixler:

Wow.

Susan Dewbrew:

No sound coming out of her mouth whatsoever. No singing in the choir, no given announcements.

Steve Pixler:

No teaching Sunday school.

Susan Dewbrew:

No teaching Sunday school, no teaching children, no teaching other women. No sound. And it's very clear when you look at the Greek, like it's very clear. It actually means no sound.

Steve Pixler:

So, if Paul actually said this and you actually mean to obey the teaching of Paul--

Susan Dewbrew:

Then I need to shut up now. Just you do it. Because--

Steve Pixler:

Can I turn your mic off? Here, let me shut you down. So it literally--

Susan Dewbrew:

You can, if you wanna honor the scripture.

Steve Pixler:

<Laugh>. This is, this is for people like me who grew up believing that this scripture was actually Paul. I did think that. Yeah. And so I thought we had to follow this some We tried to figure out how to do it and soften it.

Susan Dewbrew:

And Paul did include it in his letter.

Steve Pixler:

Yes. But Paul didn't actually say it. Okay. So we're just about out of time for today's episode. Can we--

Susan Dewbrew:

We can't leave him hanging though can we?

Steve Pixler:

Can we leave a cliffhanger?

Susan Dewbrew:

Oh, we can if you want to.

Steve Pixler:

Okay. How about just a quick, quick summary of what you think is actually happening here and then we'll point them to book one for the deep details.

Susan Dewbrew:

<Laugh>. That's so mean. <Laugh>. Okay, I'll, okay, we'll do, we'll do that.

Steve Pixler:

This great marketing.

Susan Dewbrew:

You can write Steve Pixler. Steve Pixler.

Steve Pixler:

Let all the complaints and letters send them to me.

Susan Dewbrew:

I think it's [stevepixler.com](http://stevepixler.com)

<laugh>,  
Right? <Laugh>.

Steve Pixler:

Okay. So what's the quick thumbnail sketch? What is actually happening here?

Susan Dewbrew:

You know, when you were going through the letter of 1 Corinthians chapter by chapter by chapter, well, chapter 7 verse 1 says, " Now about the things you wrote to me."

Steve Pixler:

Yes.

Susan Dewbrew:

And Paul, several times in 1 Corinthians is actually quoting what they say. And then responding. So, you can't take this verse and have chapter after chapter of Paul saying, "Everybody has a role, everybody has a voice." It's important for every, every part is important. He's like, even though the parts that don't seem as important, they're really, they're really important. Like I often say like, you might not be able to see my heart beating, but if it wasn't beating you wouldn't hear my mouth speaking.

Steve Pixler:

Right.

Susan Dewbrew:

So every part of my body is important for the body to function. And then on the heels of that, like literally on the heels of that say, "But not the women, silence the women, don't even let em utter a sound."

Steve Pixler:

Wow.

Susan Dewbrew:

Well it's not Paul. He's quoting Paul's teaching.

Steve Pixler:

What really gets me with that. And as I was working through your material, producing the book, by the way, in, in book one, we go into a lot of detail into Paul quoting all the different places in 1 Corinthians. It's all documented there if you wanna see the proof of it. But one of the things that really struck me in your work that really clarified some things for me was Holy Spirit was given to whomever it was given for the purpose of empowering them for these spiritual gifts. Through these spiritual gifts to unify the body and to minister whatever else God gave the Holy Spirit to women.

Susan Dewbrew:

Oh he did.

Steve Pixler:

Acts chapter 2, pour out my Spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.

How can we prophesy and be silent--

And be silent at the same time? So that really struck home with me that the whole book of 1 Corinthians is all about what the Spirit does in us. And there's no distinguishing between men and women.

Susan Dewbrew:

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

Steve Pixler:

And then all of a sudden out of nowhere, but not the women. It makes no sense at all.

Susan Dewbrew:

No. And if you actually take scripture in context it helps, it helps you to see true that that's what's happening here. And then Paul himself gives an answer back to the Corinthians. Is that the cliffhanger or should we go ahead and let 'em have it?

Steve Pixler:

I think we should leave them dangling.

Susan Dewbrew:

<Laugh> You are so mean.

Steve Pixler:

I think we should just hang people right over the cliff and let their feet and legs just dangle.

Susan Dewbrew:

I'll let you make that call. I will yield to you.

Steve Pixler:

Oh I'm all for cliffhangers. I'm all for cliffhangers. You gotta come back if you want to hear the rest, you gotta buy the book.

Susan Dewbrew:

It's really good. I'm telling you.

Steve Pixler:

It actually is really good. The short sketch is, Paul didn't say it. He quoted it but he didn't say it. It goes against everything Paul actually teaches everywhere else. And we demonstrate that very, very clearly in the books and we'll come back and talk more about it. But the big point right here, right now is that the unity that is so needed in the body, in the church, that then models what unity looks like to the world. The reason politics is so divided or economically divided, ethnically divided. Name all the different, you



know, fault lines of division. They're all fractures that flow out from the division between men and women.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yeah. Cuz that's the starting place.. You know I'm gonna be off kilter if I'm out here trying to force my will upon another when I haven't gotten unity at my most intimate relationships.

Steve Pixler:

So our message here is not even really about trying to find a way to give women permission to speak

Susan Dewbrew:

<Laugh>. No.

Steve Pixler:

That's such a secondary thing. The main issue here is unleashing the Kingdom. And understanding that going all the way back to the fall of Adam and Eve, Satan's strategy has been divide and conquer. If we cannot come round the unity of male and female and rally around that, then we're gonna see fragmentation in every other area of life. That's the big idea. That we're studying.

Susan Dewbrew:

And it's in our unity that we most reflect God's image on the earth. Yes. And that's actually where our power flows from. And that's why Satan wanted—

Steve Pixler:

It's why he fights it so hard.

Susan Dewbrew:

Yes divide and conquer. The reason he does that is because he knows that's the power that's gonna take him out.

Steve Pixler:

Do we wanna wrap up with prayer? I mean, we've got these people hanging over the edge of the cliff.

Susan Dewbrew:

I'm gonna let you close this in prayer.

Steve Pixler:

She's gonna make me pray since I've made you dangle. I am so, I'm so very grateful for the opportunity to study the word together with Susan and with your people today. Lord, we know that the things that you are revealing to us are things that are actually bringing real change, real transformation. We're praying for a Spirit of revelation and of wisdom to come that we can truly understand how the word fits together. We thank you for it. And God give grace to those poor dangling people--

Susan Dewbrew:

<Laugh>

Steve Pixler:

Waiting on the rest of the punchline. It's gonna be great. We're looking forward to seeing you in our next episode of "Unleashing the Kingdom" I wanna celebrate Susan Dewbrew and Gregory and all the Kingdom Brewing is doing. These are amazing people. It's an honor to work with him. We can't wait to see you next time.