

# ONE BODY--ONE CHURCH

## Unity in the Body

(Eph 4:1 KJV) I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, (Eph 4:2 KJV) With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; (Eph 4:3 KJV) Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Eph 4:4 KJV) There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; (Eph 4:5 KJV) One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

### 1. GOD'S DESIRE FOR ONENESS.

1. ***Last week, One Blood, God's plan to bring all nations into one--the Kingdom of God.***
2. ***God's desire for the church to be one.***
3. ***To achieve God's ultimate, you don't jump immediately to step Z.***
  1. There are many steps between Steps A and Z.
  2. There are progressive steps of responsibility.
4. ***For example:***
  1. There will be no unity of nations until there is spiritual unity; nations will not be one until it is demonstrated in the Body of Christ. If it doesn't work in the church, it won't work anywhere else. If there is no love in the church, there will be no love in the world. If there is no peace in the church, there will be no peace in the world.
  2. You will not understand the universal church until you understand the local church.
5. ***Everything we experience in the universal church will have already been worked out in the local church.***
  1. The local church is the arena of experiences.
  2. This is where we learn to live in the Kingdom of God; we are actually rehearsing for heaven.
  3. The local church is where the rubber meets the road.
  4. This is where we learn to live in peace and harmony; where problems are solved.
  5. This is where we learn to develop and perfect relationships.
  6. This is where we learn responsibility.
  7. This is where we learn the principles of authority, submission, and discipline; where we learn to humble ourselves before each other.
  8. This is where we learn about commitment and loyalty.
6. ***Disgruntlement about the church.***
  1. I don't need the church with its problems; I can find this in the world.
  2. True, but you won't work it out in the world. Go ahead and humble yourself to the working of God in an imperfect situation with imperfect people, but with a perfect God!

### 2. THE GREATEST NEED IN THE LOCAL CHURCH IS LOVE AND UNITY.

1. ***God's desire that we be one.***

1. (Exo 25:31 KJV) And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same. (Exo 25:32 KJV) And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side: (Exo 25:33 KJV) Three bowls made like unto almonds, with a knop and a flower in one branch; and three bowls made like almonds in the other branch, with a knop and a flower: so in the six branches that come out of the candlestick. (Exo 25:34 KJV) And in the candlestick shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers. (Exo 25:35 KJV) And there shall be a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches that proceed out of the candlestick. (Exo 25:36 KJV) Their knops and their branches shall be of the same: all it shall be one beaten work of pure gold.
  2. (John 17:11 KJV) And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.
2. ***Singleness of mind and purpose.***
1. Singleness of vision. (Mat 6:22 KJV) The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. (Mat 6:23 KJV) But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!
  2. Singleness of mind.
    1. (Phil 1:27 KJV) Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;
    2. (Phil 2:2 KJV) Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
    3. (1 Pet 3:8 KJV) Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:
  3. Singleness of purpose.
    1. (Neh 4:1 KJV) But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews. (Neh 4:2 KJV) And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? (Neh 4:3 KJV) Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall. (Neh 4:4

KJV) Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity: (Neh 4:5 KJV) And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked thee to anger before the builders.

2. (Neh 4:6 KJV) So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work. (Neh 4:7 KJV) But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth, (Neh 4:8 KJV) And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it. (Neh 4:9 KJV) Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

3. ***God is a builder; satan is a destroyer.***

1. God builds up; satan tears down.
2. You may not be a devil, could you could allow satan to use you.

3. THE WEAKNESS OF DISUNITY.

1. ***Carnal because of divisions.*** (1 Cor 3:3 KJV) For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?
2. ***What causes division?***
  1. Strife, evil clamourings, evil communication.
  2. Gossip, loose talk.
  3. Murmurings and complainings.
  4. Critical spirit and attitude.
3. ***Mark those who cause divisions.*** (Rom 16:17 KJV) Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.
4. ***Six things God hates.*** (Prov 6:16 KJV) These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: (Prov 6:17 KJV) A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, (Prov 6:18 KJV) An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, (Prov 6:19 KJV) A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.
5. ***How to stop gossip.*** (Prov 26:20 KJV) Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.
  1. Not giving a listening ear.
  2. Planting negative seeds of doubt and confusion.
  3. Where there is genuine love, there is unity. You're willing to cover your brother's nakedness or weakness; not to magnify them.

6. ***You don't make the church better by criticism, but you do through prayer.***
  1. Talking about a situation solves no problem. Prayer does.
  2. You can be a part of the problem by magnifying it or a part of the solution by being the best person you can be .
  3. You can not be responsible for someone else's actions; only your own.
  
4. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO YOUR LOCAL CHURCH.
  1. ***Don't allow anyone to discredit your church.***
  2. ***Respect the leadership.***
    1. Receive no accusation against an elder.(1 Tim 5:19 KJV) Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. (1 Tim 5:20 KJV) Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.
    2. An elder is someone who has proven himself; stood the test of time.
    3. Disrespect for dignities. (2 Pet 2:10 KJV) But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. (2 Pet 2:11 KJV) Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.
    4. Building up leaders.
      1. What are we communicating to others?
      2. What about our children?
      3. It would be better to tie a millstone about our necks than to offend a little one.
  3. ***Support your church.***
    1. Catch the vision.
    2. Desire to help make your church the best it can possibly be.
    3. Do everything you can to help ensure the success of your church.
    4. Support your church through your commitment; faithfulness; allegiance; loyalty.
    5. Remember the progressive steps: How can you be committed to the things of God without being committed to His church?
  4. ***Support your pastor.***
    1. Pastor, I'll support you if you are right. That should be a given.
    2. What about when he is wrong? What is the intent of the heart?
  
5. HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT!
  1. (Psa 133:1 KJV) A Song of degrees of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!
  2. (Psa 133:2 KJV) It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;
  3. (Psa 133:3 KJV) As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.