

I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, **IF** you love one another.”

John 13:35





Unity is vital to a team

Even more important in the church

EVERY member must contribute to the unity of the church


CHURCH AT EPHESUS

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus **AND** your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

Eph. 1:15-16

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Eph. 4:1-2

A close-up photograph showing the hands of several people of various ethnicities gathered around a dark-colored Bible. The hands are positioned as if they are all holding the book together, with fingers resting on the cover. The people are wearing various accessories like bracelets and watches. The background is dark, making the hands and the Bible the central focus.

And **over all these** virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Col. 3:14

UNITY IS REALLY IMPORTANT IN THE CHURCH

ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART?

As Church Members We Are to be Sources of Unity



Never a divisive force

Love each other unconditionally



I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

Rom. 16:17

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

Titus 3:10-11

GOSSIP & OTHER NEGATIVE TALK

They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

Rom. 1:29-31

GOSSIP & NEGATIVE TALK



Gossip is idle talk or rumor, especially about the personal or private affairs of others

Gossip is bad and absolutely destructive in the church

A unified church is the most powerful organization on earth!

GOSSIP & NEGATIVE TALK

The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

James 3:6

Whoever would love life and see good days
must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from
deceitful speech

1 Peter 3:10

Love Life

See Good Days

**Control Your
Tongue**

FORGIVENESS & UNITY

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matt. 6:14-15

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Col. 3:12-14

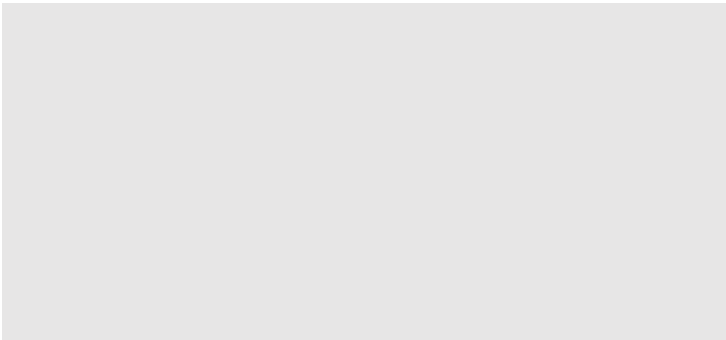


Each church is made up of imperfect members

We all make mistakes & we all sin

Church unity is torn apart by members who refuse to forgive

**I WILL NOT LET MY CHURCH BE ABOUT MY
PREFERENCES & DESIRES**





A ME FIRST FIGHT



They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?”³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

Mark 9:33-25

Servant occurs 57 times in NT

Serve occurs 58 times in NT



SERVANT

**SERVING IS A BIG DEAL IN
THE BIBLE!**



SERVANT

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

Eph 3:7

INWARDLY FOCUSED CHURCH PROFILE

Inordinate Demands for Pastoral Care

Anger & Hostility

Inwardly Focused Budget

Attitudes of Entitlement

Worship Wars

Program Driven

Facility Focus

Prolonged Minutia Meetings

Evangelistic Apathy

Greater Concern About
Change Than the Gospel

Pretty Messed Up Picture, huh?

Thinking with the mind



Of Christ

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Phil. 2:5-11