

Unity in a Divisive Culture

Ephesians 4:1-6
December 15, 2019

A Call for Unity:

- **It's a requirement, not an option.**

- John 13:34-35
- Proverbs 6:16-19
- John 17:20-23

- **It takes work.**

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:18

- **We're called to live in it, not create it.**

Why is unity so hard to maintain?

✓ _____

¹⁷ In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸ In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹ No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval.

1 Corinthians 11:17-19

✓ _____

✓ _____

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:3-5

✓ _____

- Romans 14:1-4

A Path to Unity:

1. Be _____.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Romans 12:3

³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

John 13:3-5

2. Be _____.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

3. Be _____.

A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 19:11