

Being Diligent to Preserve Unity

(Ephesians 4:1-3)

Achieving and maintaining unity in a church is not easy to do. Due to all the differences among the people in a congregation, maintaining unity requires diligence and hard work.

Thankfully, the gospel tells us exactly how to achieve this.

I. By being humble (Ephesians 4:2)

A. What does the humble person do?

1. He realizes that because he has sinned against God, he is not better than anyone else in the spiritual family (Romans 3:23; 6:23).
2. He focuses on serving and seeking out the best interests of others (Philippians 2:3-5).

B. People who are humble always strive for peace and unity among God's people.

II. By being gentle (Ephesians 4:2, 32)

A. This includes...

1. Being kind.
2. Being tender-hearted.
3. Being concerned and affectionate.

B. It does not mean devouring and destroying one another (Galatians 5:15).

III. By being patient (Ephesians 4:2)

A. We need this in marriage and parenting.

1. We also need this in the local church.
2. We need to be patient with new converts.
3. We need to assume the best in one another, and always be willing to work out our problems.

B. Just like God is patient with us, we need to always be patient with one another.

IV. By being tolerant (Ephesians 4:2)

A. This does not mean we are to tolerate sin (1 Corinthians 5:1-13).

1. Instead it means we are to bear with one another despite our differences.
2. We have to be willing to put up with one another from time to time.

B. Despite our different personalities, we must do our best to get along.

V. By being focused (Matthew 28:19-20)

A. Jesus has given us the mission of spreading the gospel.

1. So often, churches are divided because they allow the devil to distract them from this mission.
2. They spend too much time majoring in minor things, instead of seeking to win souls.

B. When we stay focused on our mission, the devil will have a tough time dividing and distracting us from doing the great work the Lord has given us.

Conclusion: Are you part of the family?