

John 17:20-23

20 "I do not ask for these only but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, **23** I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

1 Corinthians 13

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. **4** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant **5** or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **6** it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. **7** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **8** Love never ends...

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

Ephesians 4:3

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Colossians 3:14

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Proverbs 18:8

The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body. Everything that is said should be true but not everything that is true should be said.

Proverbs 17:4 (NLT)

Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander.

Proverbs 21:23

Watch your tongue, keep your mouth shut, and you'll stay out of trouble.

Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

If you commit to unity, you will demonstrate love.

There is a difference in being in love and being loving.

In order to be unified, we must not gossip.

Guard your ears.

What you permit, you promote.

Close your mouth.

Help with your words.

In order to be unified, we must forgive.

Your lack of forgiveness hurts you.

You will need forgiveness again.

"Forgiveness is not about keeping score. It's about losing count."

We can show love to those who don't deserve it because we were shown love when we didn't deserve it.

- **What did Paul mean when he said in Colossians 3:14 that love is the perfect bond of unity? What does that mean for the local church today?**
- **What is the best path to take if someone brings gossip to you in the church? What does the Bible say about gossip?**
- **How is forgiveness related to unity in the local church? What does the Bible say about forgiving one another?**
- **Look at Matthew 6:14-15. Relate those words to being a church member. What does it mean if one church member does not forgive another?**
- **Read all of 1 Corinthians 13. Paul wrote the "love chapter" to the church at Corinth where problems with unity were prevalent. What does this chapter mean for church members today? Explain as you go through each verse.**