

Amos 3:3 Walking Together in Unity

Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers met together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship. -A.w. Tozer

A Couple Biblical Truths

Biblical Truth #1

We are commanded to love one another.

John 14:15 — “If you love Me, keep My commandments

John 15:12 — “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

1 John 3:16 — By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 — Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...

Ephesians 5:19 — speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...

Ephesians 5:21 — submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Galatians 6:10 — Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:2 — Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Biblical Truth #2

We are all still sinners, saved by grace, and we all still sin.

The Apostles Struggled With Unity

Luke 9:46 NIV — An argument started among the disciples...

Luke 22:24 NLT — Then they began to argue among themselves... (at the Last Supper)

Acts 15:2 & 7 — Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them.... And when there had been much dispute....

Acts 15:37-39— Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not... Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another.

Matthew 18:7- Offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

Ephesians 4:29-32 — Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

###All of this stuff is baggage. It weighs us down.

Hebrews 12:1-2 — Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:14-15 — Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

How can we tell if we are bitter?

-Bitterness remembers details.

Guilt is what we feel when we sin

Bitterness is what we feel when others sin against us.

1 Corinthians 13:5 — does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks [remembers, reckons, takes account of] no evil;

Options Once You Become Bitter

1. Hold it in and make yourself sick.
2. Let it out and make everyone else sick. (Gossip)
3. Attack the root, deal with it, and surrender it to God.

How to Deal With Bitterness?

Step 1- Confess, Repent, ask God For His Holy Spirit

###In order to get rid of it, I need to recognize that it is my problem before I can confess and forsake it.

####But they offended me! What they did was awful!

Matthew 5:38-39 — “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ “But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Matthew 5:43-44 — “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Matthew 5:46 — “For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

PIC Amy Carmichael : “For a cup brimful of sweet water cannot spill even one drop of bitter water, however suddenly jolted.”

###Bitterness, like all sin, is a choice. It does not depend in the offender, it is the "offended " persons choice to forgive or remain bitter.

Step 2- Forgive Them

Matthew 18:21-35 Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Step 3 (Optional)- Address The Offender

Matthew 18: 15-17

Ten Boom- **Forgiveness** is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.

John 13:35 — “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”