

UNITY IN THE FAMILY OF CHRIST

- Because of our SIN NATURE we all are the problem that contributes to DISUNITY.

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"¹⁴"Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?"

Joshua 5:13-14 (NIV)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV)

- Am I living a life WORTHY of the CALLING I have received from Christ?

If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Mark 3:25 (NIV)

- Our top priority in a situation is UNITY.

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

Romans 12:18 (NIV)

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV)

- Unity does NOT mean UNIFORMITY.

- Unity in Christ is not to love the same things. Unity in Christ is to love EACH OTHER.
- Our DIVERSITY is what makes a complete BODY.

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Ephesians 4:13-14 (NIV)

- Approaching the world with the GOSPEL is how we can achieve true unity.
- The Gospel calls us to live in PEACE and HARMONY with each other through LOVE.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Ephesians 4:31 (NIV)

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

- We have to stop fighting each other for the SAKE of our cause and instead fight for each other BECAUSE of our cause.