

What Really Matters #1

September 30, 2007

“Unity Is A Necessity”

Acts 4:32 (NIV) All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

Romans 12:16 (NIV) Live in harmony with one another.

John 17:20-21 (NLT) ²⁰ “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me because of their testimony. ²¹ My prayer for all of them is that they will be one, just as you and I are one, Father—that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me.

Ephesians 4:3 (NIV) Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

My part in maintaining unity in my church:

1. Major on what we _____

Ephesians 4:4-6 (NLT) ⁴ We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future. ⁵ There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ and there is only one God and Father, who is over us all and in us all and living through us all.

Fellowship = _____;

Romans 14:19 (Phillips) Let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony and the growth of one another's character.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NLT) Let there be real harmony so there won't be divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

2. _____

Ephesians 4:2 (NIV) Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

3. Choose to be _____

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV) Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Hebrews 3:13 (NIV) encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 10:24 (NLT) Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds.

• The goal of encouragement is to _____

Romans 14:10 (Phillips) Why do you criticize your brother's actions? Why do you try to make him look small? We shall all be judged one day, not by each other's standards, or even by our own, but by the standard of Christ.

Results of a critical attitude:

• I damage my own _____

• I expose my own _____

• I set myself up to be _____

• I hurt the _____ of my church

4. _____

Hebrews 13:17 (Message) Be responsive to your pastoral leaders. Listen to their counsel. They are alert to the condition of your lives and work under the strict supervision of God. Contribute to the joy of their leadership, not its drudgery. Why would you want to make things harder for them?

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (Message) Honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love.

Colossians 3:14 (LB) Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony.

September memory verse: Matthew 6:21 (NIV) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.