

Thanksgiving as a Key to Unity?

Covenant Church
 Sunday, December 30, 2019
 Zack Phillips, Pastor

Col 3:12-17 (NRSV)

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

12 As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with

- compassion,
- kindness,
- humility,
- meekness,
- and patience.

All of these traits have to do with loving others better in relationship

► Strategy #1

13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other;

just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Instructions for avoiding and dealing with conflicts

► Strategy #2

► Strategy #3

Justification

14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

“Love” “binding together” implies (profound) unity

► Strategy #4
 Explanation/
 elaboration/
 justification

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. **And be thankful.**

“Peace” and “one body” is unity language in the N.T.

► Strategy #5
 Justification
 ► Strategy #5;
Thankfulness #1

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and **with gratitude in your hearts** sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

Activities that build, maintain, strengthen godly fellowship

► Strategy #6
 ► Strategy #7
 ► Strategy #8;
Thankfulness #2

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

► Strategy #9;
Thankfulness #3

Paul thankful for his letter recipients

Rom 1:8-9 First, *I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you*, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that *without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers*,

1 Cor 1:4-7 *I give thanks to my God always for you* because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:15-16 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason *I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers*.

Phil 1:3-5 *I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy* in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

Col 1:3-5a *In our prayers for you we always thank God*, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven...

1 Thess 1:2-3 *We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father* your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thess 1:3 *We must always give thanks to God for you*, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing.

Phlm 1:4-5 *When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God* because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving—When All Else Fails?

2 Thess 2:13-14 But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.