

Seeking God's Plan for Joyful Unity Unity Comes from a Humble Mind

I. God Commands us to Promote and Protect Unity for the sake of the Gospel

A. The Command for Unity

Titus 3:10-11- Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

Proverbs 6:16-19 - There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.

B. The Joy of Unity

C. The Picture of Unity

1. By being of the Same Mind (moving in the same direction)

2. Having the Same Love

3. United in Spirit

Ecclesiastes 4:12 - And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.

4. Intent on one Purpose

II. God Provides the Motivation we need to minimize our differences and maximize our common commitments

A. Encouragement/Comfort given by Christ

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Philippians 2:6-8 - *who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

B. Consolation of the Love of Christ

2 Corinthians 1:5 - *For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.*

C. Fellowship with the Holy Spirit

D. Affection and Compassion of Christ

III. God Explains that Humility and Concern for others is Required to have Unity

A. Threats to Unity

1. Seeking the benefit for myself (Selfishness)
2. Seeking out the credit (Vain Conceit)

B. Requirements for Unity

1. With Humility, valuing others
2. Being Concerned about the interests of others