

# The Powerful Witness of Unity

Ephesians 4:1-16

Unity has an irresistible power.

What is the nature of Christian unity?

- People do not \_\_\_\_\_ unity—\_\_\_\_\_ does (Eph. 4:3; 2:22).
- Christian unity is “being one in spirit and purpose” to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ and \_\_\_\_\_ to others (John 17:23; Phil. 2:2; Rom. 15:5-6).

Five commitments needed to cultivate, maintain and demonstrate unity:

- A commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ above all things and to \_\_\_\_\_ all of our mini-agendas for His sake (Eph. 4:1, 15-16; Matt. 22:37; Gal. 2:20).
- A commitment to sound \_\_\_\_\_, which never sacrifices the \_\_\_\_\_, but always prioritizes it in a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:4-6, 13, 15, 16; Phil. 3:15).
- A commitment to develop Christ-like \_\_\_\_\_, especially \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:2; Rom. 12:3; Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Pet. 3:8).
- A commitment to respect and pursue God-given \_\_\_\_\_ and accept one another as Christ has accepted us (Eph. 4:11; Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Col. 3:11; Rom. 15:7).
- Unity is not the same as \_\_\_\_\_. The church at its best should be like an \_\_\_\_\_, with many different instruments blending together under one conductor to play complementary parts in one glorious composition.
- A commitment to strive earnestly and prayerfully to pursue \_\_\_\_\_, resolve conflict, and preserve relationships despite personal differences (Eph. 4:3; Prov. 19:11; Luke 6:27-28; Rom. 12:18; Gal. 6:1).

The evidence and fruit of unity:

- A \_\_\_\_\_ of shared lives, with people regularly meeting, eating, praying, worshiping, and reaching decisions together (Acts. 1:14; 2:46; Rom. 12:16; 1 Pet. 3:8).
- No worldly \_\_\_\_\_ based on race, gender, age, or economic status (Gal. 3:26-29).
- A commitment to seek genuine \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ rather than an imposed uniformity (Phil. 2:1-4).
- People feel a \_\_\_\_\_ to respectfully \_\_\_\_\_ with one another (Phil. 3:15).
- Work \_\_\_\_\_ toward common kingdom goals and invest our spiritual and material resources far more effectively (Acts 4:32-37).
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationships (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:12-15).
- Enhance our \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ (John 17:23; 13:34-35).

Conclusion: True Christian unity can provide a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ witness to the world.

Challenge: What will you do today, by God’s grace, to cultivate, maintain, and demonstrate unity in your marriage, family, workplace, or here at church?