

SERMON NOTES

Title: Protecting the Unity in Our Church

Text: Ephesians 4:3; Colossians 3:14

Topic: Unity

Teacher: Pastor Barry

Time: 9/8/24 File Under: Christian Living



How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! Psalm 133:1

You are joined together with peace through the Spirit, so make every effort to continue together in the way. Ephesians 4:3 (NCV) *Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony.* Colossians 3:14 (LB)

Jesus final words were in the form of a prayer. He prayed passionately for our **unity**. (John. 17:20-23)

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3 NIV) How are we to do this? The Bible gives us practical advice.

FOCUS ON WHAT WE HAVE **IN COMMON**.

“Let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of one another’s character.” (Romans 14:19 PH)

God wants unity, **not uniformity**.

BE REALISTIC IN YOUR EXPECTATIONS.

It is easy to become discouraged by the gap we see between the **ideal** and **reality**.

“Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.” (Ephesians 4:2 NLT)

Reconciliation is the road to stronger **character** and deeper **fellowship**. God has things He wants to teach you, and **conflict** is often the tool He uses.

CHOOSE TO ENCOURAGE RATHER THAN CRITICIZE. Romans 14:4; Romans 14:10; Romans 14:19

Whenever you judge another believer, you **lose** fellowship with God, you **expose** your own pride and insecurity, you **set yourself up** to be judged by God, and you **harm** the fellowship of the church.