

The Unity Jesus Desires

(Matthew 12:25)

- Introduction:**
1. (Psalm 133:1; Matthew 12:25; Matthew 5:9).
 2. Jesus prayed for our unity (John 17:20-21).
 3. Paul pleaded for unity (1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:25).
 4. So, we know unity is to be desired, and without it, we cannot fulfill our purpose, so how do we achieve it and maintain it?
 5. I want to offer several practical suggestions.

I. Stress Attitude Equally with Doctrine

- A. Platform of unity doesn't start in (Ephesians 4:4-6).
- B. Back up and read the first three verses that deal with attitudes.
- C. Believing doctrines is much easier than changing our attitudes.

II. Possess Lowliness (Ephesians 4:2)

- A. A lowly or humble person won't always have to get their way.
- B. Christians sometimes get bent out of shape over matters that shouldn't matter.

III. Possess Gentleness & Longsuffering (Ephesians 4:2)

- A. Handle people with care.
- B. Some people are fragile, and words can destroy (Proverbs 18:21).
- C. (2 Timothy 4:2).

IV. Bear with Each Other in Love

- A. Believe the best (1 Corinthians 13:7).
- B. Sometimes we get mad over imaginary offenses we created in our own minds.

V. Try Harder

- A. (Ephesians 4:3) Endeavor, give diligence.
- B. Don't be content with division.
- C. (Romans 12:14,17,20-21).
- D. (Hebrews 12:14).

VI. Work Through Conflict

- A. The most popular means of conflict resolution in the church today is "church hopping."
- B. (Acts 14:1-3) Paul stayed because of problems.

- Conclusion:**
1. Remember, unity is not an option, it is a command.
 2. Let's step it up and seek the unity for which Jesus prayed.