

Unity in the Church Family

Psalm 68: 4-6 "God sets the lonely in families....."

We all seek in our lives a sense of **belonging**.

Mark B. "I want you to understand how much you are part of a family....I would do anything for you..."

God expects us to treat each other the way we want to be treated (**ref. Matthew 7:12**)

Romans 12: 3-19a

- Don't be proud (vs 3)
- You are part of an organism that is meant to work together (vss. 4 – 8)
The body works well when we all feel needed and useful.....
- Love must be sincere - we are supposed to actually care about each other's welfare (9 -13)
Honor one another, handle our own issues with a spiritual heart, Share, **be hospitable**
These commands are for all of us, (not just "leaders")
- LIVE IN HARMONY (vss. 14 – 19a) Bless, Rejoice, Mourn, reach out to people that are not like you, Forgive (**DEAL WITH BITTERNESS, Warrior 142-146**)
- "If it is possible, **as far as it depends on you** live at peace with everyone, don't take revenge"

Why is it hard for us to live out these verses in Romans 12?

- We sometimes have conditions on our love
- We may be less than committed to the long term struggle of staying unified (*don't feel loved*)
My wife and I have bumps, (eg) however we are committed to working it out because we are committed to this marriage for life, we have no choice but to forgive, work it out, move on...
Sometimes we can feel that
"I am committed to unity in the church as long as people do what I want them to do."
I have options (Secret to staying married...don't get a divorce), same applies in the church.
There can't be a 'back door', or you will eventually use it

Colossians 3:12 - 17 Peace of Christ, Thankful, message (word) of Christ as the standard for my relationships, teach, admonish one another (some of us make it clear we Really don't want others to give us input, we don't get advice)

Some keys Deal with your own heart before correcting others (**Mth. 7: 3-5** speck / plank)

Patience / Overlook offenses (**Prov. 19:11**)

Romans 14:19 Do what leads to peace and mutual edification / WE All must be edified, not just me (Worship, times together, meeting needs collectively)

James 1: 19 Quick to listen and slow to speak, ask questions, we don't see the whole picture, get perspective from objective people, walk in other's moccasins

Closing question: What can you do (not someone else) to contribute to great Unity in the body?