

THE BODY WITH NO DIVISION

We must be concerned for each other equally - 1 Cor 12:25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

We are to be one in all we do - Phil 2:2-4 - 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Unity in the Body MUST be one of our priorities - Eph 4:2-3 - 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Remember we are a body (singular) and we must strive to worship God as one - Rom 15:5-6 - 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 **SO THAT** with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

How we love defines who we are

We are NOT Christians if we don't love everyone - 1 John 4:7-12 - 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. **EVERYONE WHO LOVES HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD AND KNOWS GOD**. 8 **WHOEVER DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD, BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE**. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 **This is love**: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but **IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER**, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Our love for our brothers is evidence that we are Christians - 1 John 3:14-15 - 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, BECAUSE we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love **remains** in death. 15 Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

Those that hate their brothers are still in the dark - 1 John 2:9-11 - 9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

Responsibility in Godly unity

We should confess our sins and pray for one another - James 5:14-16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other SO THAT you may be healed. The **prayer of a RIGHTEOUS MAN** is powerful and effective.

Regularly meeting with each other is necessary for encouragement - Heb 10:24-25 - 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

We are to hold each other accountable –

Heb 3:12-13 - 12 **SEE TO IT**, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, **so that** none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

1 Thess 5:14-15 - 14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 Make sure that **nobody** pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

We must deal with each other while being richly led by the Word - Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

We must tolerate one another and not make it about self - Col 3:12-14 - 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

The foundation of our relationship must be Christ - Eph 5:19-21 - 19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Certain things must be eliminated and controlled for the sake of Godly unity

We must control what we say for the sake of our brothers –

Eph 4:25-27 - 25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for **we are all members of one body**. 26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and **do not give the devil a foothold**.

Eph 4:29 **Do not let** any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Unfairness and unbalance are hated by God therefore should be nonexistent in the Christian body

Prov 11:1 - The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.

Prov 20:9 Differing weights and differing measures — the Lord detests them both.

Prov 20:23 The Lord detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please him.

We must not judge and condemn; we must assess and assist - Rom 14:13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

Disputes and disagreements in the Body should be dealt with in the Body - 1 Cor 6:1-8 - If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? 2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! 4 Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! 5 I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? 6 But instead, one brother goes to law against another — and this in front of unbelievers! 7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? 8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.

A major part of Christ's law is to love one another - Gal 5:13-15 - 13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But **do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature**; rather, serve one another in love. 14 The **entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."** 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

We must live daily paying the debt of Love - Rom 13:8-10 - 8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Obeying God's Word is what provides us with sincere love for our brothers - 1 Peter 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth SO THAT you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

In a nutshell, this should be the focus of God's people with others - Rom 12:9-18 - 9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.