

Let The Spirit Of Oneness Flow!

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

1. Most of us have experienced a conflict in a ministry setting, whether it be two individuals quarreling over the decorations in a classroom, to a church split over some “major” doctrine. We can all identify with the basic feelings that come with such a painful event. But many of these quarrels are ended in a wonderful way when someone decides to pursue love. Describe some of the things that go on in your heart and mind when a conflict is resolved:

- In situations like the ones mentioned above, does resolution of the conflict just happen? If not, what does it take to bring about resolution and where does its motivation and/ or power come from?

2. Compromise is a familiar term to all of us. Is compromise – especially on matters of doctrine – a wise policy to follow in order to achieve and maintain unity?

- What happens to the group, organization or church which does compromise on important issues? Can it maintain its unity in the long run?

3. In the following passage are mentioned some of the things that make Christian unity work. While they do not cause Christian unity, they are linked to it:

Philippians 2: 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. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who... humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Identify as many unity factors as you can find... 1.

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4. Read John 17: 20- 23. 20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so

that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. • According to this passage, where does unity actually come from?

- How many times does Jesus pray that the believers will be unified in just this one passage?

- What is supposed to be the result of the unity of believers that Jesus asks for?

- What do you think is the relationship between love and unity as indicated in verse 23?

5. What do you think: is unity a promise from God that we claim (something like we claim eternal life based on Jesus' sacrifice) or is it a principle which we apply such as sowing what we wish to reap?

6. This week's focus on care and prayer...

When was the last time you prayed for unity in your family, work, or church. It does not come by accident: it is the result of the prayers of the faithful saints who persist in doing good and use good – a prayer for unity – to overcome evil such as disharmony.

Take a few moments to pray for unity...