

# DEVELOPING A LIFE VISION OF FAITH

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Pastor Steve

## Jesus' Vision: A Unified Family

I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. John 15:9

This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:12-13

This is my command: Love each other. John 15:17

After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. John 17:1-2

"My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. John 17:9-11

I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. John 17:20-21

I) My unity with other believers is the proof that I am \_\_\_\_\_.

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:34-35

II) The \_\_\_\_\_ is our model for unity.

Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. John 17:11

III) Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ before the cross was that we would live in unity.

I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. John 17:21

IV) God gives us \_\_\_\_\_ so that we will be unified.

I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. John 17:22

V) Our unity is our greatest \_\_\_\_\_ to unbelievers.

I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. John 17:23

VI) Unity removes fear and creates \_\_\_\_\_.

A) Then all the believers united in this prayer: "O Lord, Creator of heaven and earth and of the sea and everything in them— Acts 4:24 (TLB)

B) After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:31

VII) When a church is unified everybody's \_\_\_\_\_ are met.

All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. Acts 4:32

VIII) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the visible signs of unity.

A) The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

B) When we bless the cup at the Lord's Table, aren't we sharing in the blood of Christ? And when we break the bread, aren't we sharing in the body of Christ? And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

IX) Focusing on our common \_\_\_\_\_ is what creates unity.

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. 1 Corinthians 1:10

X) Unity begins when we realize we're \_\_\_\_\_ without each other.

A) Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." 1 Corinthians 12:20-21

B) This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 1 Corinthians 12:25

C) If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:26-27

XI) Jesus died to \_\_\_\_\_ us, not to \_\_\_\_\_ us.

Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. Ephesians 2:16

XII) Jesus expects me to \_\_\_\_\_ at unifying Christians.

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. Ephesians 4:3

Meanwhile, live in such a way that you are a credit to the Message of Christ. Let nothing in your conduct hang on whether I come or not. Your conduct must be the same whether I show up to see things for myself or hear of it from a distance. Stand united, singular in vision, contending for people's trust in the Message, the good news, not flinching or dodging in the slightest before the opposition. Your courage and unity will show them what they're up against: defeat for them, victory for you—and both because of God.

Philippians 1:27-28 (MSG)

This is what I have asked of God for you: that you will be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love, and that you will have the rich experience of knowing Christ with real certainty and clear understanding. For God's secret plan, now at last made known, is Christ himself.

Colossians 2:2 (TLB)

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:14

#### NEXT STEPS:

- I will memorize John 13:34-35.
- I will read John 13-17.