

# DEVELOPING A LIFE VISION OF FAITH

January 21<sup>st</sup> / 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
Pastor Steve

## My Part in Fulfilling Jesus' Vision

And you husbands, show the same kind of love to your wives as Christ showed to the Church when he died for her, to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's Word;  
Ephesians 5:25-26 (TLB)

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

## To Protect the Unity of the Church, I:

- I) Focus on what we \_\_\_\_\_, not our differences.
  - A) So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. Romans 14:19
  - B) For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all. Ephesians 4:4-6
  - C) Unity is not \_\_\_\_\_.
  - D) Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. Romans 14:1 (NIV)
  - E) 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
- II) Realize that I must continually \_\_\_\_\_ at unity.
  - A) Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. Ephesians 4:3
  - B) Don't bring \_\_\_\_\_ into the church.

I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world? After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. 1 Corinthians 3:2-5
  - C) Don't be drawn into the world's \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1) Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36
  - 2) Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. 2 Timothy 2:23-25
- D) Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. Romans 14:20
- III) Am \_\_\_\_\_ in my expectations.
- A) Nothing is perfect except your words. Psalm 119:96
  - B) Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Ephesians 4:2
  - C) Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:14
  - D) Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. 1 Peter 4:8
- IV) Offer \_\_\_\_\_ instead of criticism.
- A) So let's agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault. You're certainly not going to permit an argument over what is served or not served at supper to wreck God's work among you, are you? I said it before and I'll say it again: All food is good, but it can turn bad if you use it badly, if you use it to trip others up and send them sprawling. Romans 14:19-20
  - B) The wise are known for their understanding, and pleasant words are persuasive. Proverbs 16:21
  - C) Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has come at last— salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth— the one who accuses them before our God day and night. Revelation 12:10

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. Galatians 5:13-15

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

1 Peter 3:8 (NIV)

NEXT STEPS:

- I receive the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- I recommit my life to Jesus.
- I will memorize 1 Peter 3:8.
- I will strive to live a Christ-centered life.
- Sign up for small group.