

DEVELOPING A LIFE VISION OF FAITH

January 28th / 29th, 2023
Pastor Steve

Maintaining Unity

Where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18a

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

Ephesians 4:3

God is not a God of confusion but a God of peace. As is true in all the churches of God's people 1

Corinthians 14:33

To Maintain Unity and Prevent Explosions, I:

- I) Reserve _____ until I know all the _____.
 - A) My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight; Proverbs 3:21 (NIV)
 - B) My child, don't lose sight of common sense and discernment. Hang on to them, Proverbs 3:21
 - C) What a shame—yes, how stupid!—to decide before knowing the facts! Proverbs 18:13 (TLB)
 - D) Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish. Proverbs 18:13
 - E) So do not judge before the right time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light things that are now hidden in darkness, and will make known the secret purposes of people's hearts. Then God will praise each one of them. 1 Corinthians 4:5 (NCV)
 - F) Do not let anyone fool you by telling you things that are not true, because these things will bring God's anger on those who do not obey him. Ephesians 5:6
- II) Am _____ and _____ to what offends others.
 - A) So don't be a stumbling block to anyone, whether they are Jews or Gentiles or Christians. 1 Corinthians 10:32
 - B) A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted. Proverbs 12:16
 - C) Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. 1 Peter 3:8 (NIV)
 - D) Don't do anything that will cause criticism against yourself even though you know that what you do is right. Romans 14:16 (TLB)

- E) When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. Matthew 5:25
- F) People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy. Proverbs 28:13
- G) We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, "The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me." Romans 15:1-3

III) Limit my _____ out of love.

- A) 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." ¹⁵ But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. Galatians 5:13-16
- B) So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. 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 14:19-20
- C) Don't be concerned for your own good but for the good of others. 1 Corinthians 10:24
- D) I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved. 1 Corinthians 10:33

IV) Am always _____ and _____.

- A) Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Philippians 2:3
- B) My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others? James 2:1
- C) Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! Romans 12:16
- D) Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Proverbs 3:3
- E) A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell. James 3:6 (MSG)

F) Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. Ephesians 4:29

NEXT STEPS:

- I receive the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- I recommit my life to Jesus.
- I will memorize Proverbs 29:18a.
- I will strive to follow the principles to maintain unity in my life.
- Sign up for small group.