

Objective: to secure and maintain the 'unity of the Body,' both personally and collectively.

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NLBC a.m.

Maintaining Unity in the Body

Eph. 4:1-3; Ps. 133:1-3.

Introduction

One of the vital keys to successful Christian living and to the Church's wholeness, is fully embracing the supreme value of: Unity. One of Satan's greatest weapons in the earth is *division*—which he employed in the Garden of Eden. The **deception** of sin separated man from God and man from woman. Deception leads to *division*—and division is a sign of deception. The Cross of Christ was the supreme price that was paid, to restore *unity* between man and God, and between man and his fellowman, or between men and women.

In recent years, there has been great harvest, great miracles, and great blessing, as the conferences organised by Pastor Peter Kamanzi have spread across several nations. Those Great Unity Conferences are built on Ps. 133. The 'commanded blessing of God' has come sovereignly and powerfully on those conferences, as the great sin of **division** has been repented of and the life and language of forgiveness and loving has taken place.

Where Disunity Grows Inside a Congregation

Like mould growing behind a wall, the 'spores' of disunity thrive and reproduce. Mould is potentially deadly and, at the least, can cause great sickness.



Disunity grows in the soil of:

- Relational distance – when people live relationally distant from each other, they allow the ‘accuser’ (Satan – Rev. 12:10) to put negative thoughts into their minds about others.
- Unresolved conflict – when conflicts are not resolved, distance and division, are already growing.
- Unforgiveness – Commanded to forgive, we allow unforgiveness to separate us from God, from His blessing and from others. This, like a snowball rolling downhill, grows larger.

- Pride & Wrongful Ambition – conceit and pride turned an Archangel into The Devil. When we walk humbly before God, we serve others cheerfully, wanting to secure their success before our own.

Maintaining Unity – Eph. 5:1-3

You can only maintain, what you *possess*. Each believer takes the personal responsibility of securing the kind of relationships, that are loving, forgiving, deep, sacrificial and faithful. Without this 1 John 4:7-12 activity, the deadly mould of disunity begins to grow. What are the specific steps we must make and practice, to **maintain unity**?

- Move closer to the Body or Family of God – this isn't necessarily a geographical location or proximity, but a relational closeness. Get to know people. Talk to your brothers and sisters, just as a normal family does at home. Invite them into your home and your heart. **2 Cor. 6:12**; Rom. 12:13-16; 1 Pet. 4:9.
- Serve the family of God – Gal. 5:13 “by love serve one another.” Eph. 4:16.
- Refuse to criticise or listen to an evil report – Gal. 5:15, 19-21; Neh. 6:13 NASB
- Pray for the ‘family of God,’ collectively and specifically. You cannot stay separated from someone, whom you are consistently praying for. James 5:16.
- Be a ‘peacemaker,’ not a troublemaker. Rom. 12:21; Rom.12:18; Rom. 14:19.

- Live by the Word of God, not your feelings. Matt. 4:4. Believers who live by their feelings, (make decisions based on feelings or emotions) are easy prey to the ‘accuser,’ to be unwittingly used by him, to ‘devour others with their tongues.’
- Speak the language of unity—the language of love. Eph. 4:29. Building each other up, blessing each other, affirming each other, and keeping private things private, we secure the ongoing ‘life of unity’ among us. Luke 4:22 “...the gracious words that came from his lips.”
- Be or become, a ‘great forgiver!’ – Eph. 4:31, 32.

Reasons People Give For Allowing Disunity to Grow

Often people give some of the following reasons for allowing the spirit of disunity (unwittingly) to grow within themselves:

1. “I have been hurt by others...therefore, I don’t make the effort to get closer to others.”
2. “There is no others like me or in my situation...I am single, divorced, single parent, old, too thin, too large, too poor, etc.”
3. “I have no time to get involved with others...I am just too busy.”
4. “I am just not the kind of person that makes friends or makes friends easily.”

All, of the above, are Satanic ‘arrows of poison,’ waiting to release the venom of disunity, at the right time, in the mind and life of a person who lives with them. The great truth of the Body of Christ is built on the natural analogy of the human body. If the members of your physical body get ‘distanced’ or separated from each other, there is great pain.

Medical attention is necessary to alleviate that pain, so you can have a perfect function.

1 Cor. 1:10 says, “I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may **be no divisions among you** and that **you may be perfectly united** in mind and thought.”