

The Church - Unified

Today I want to talk about keeping Unity in the Church.

What does the Lord think about Unity in the Church? Ephesians 4:1-6

There is someone who wants very much to destroy the Church.

- Where two or three gather together, there will eventually be _____.
- Jesus prayed that _____ in the Church would be an example to the world of His love. John 17:23 , John 13:35
- How the Church responds to _____ determines how much _____ it has to impact the world for Christ.
- The Church must pursue _____. Romans 14:19, Ephesians 4:3

The Bible offers a plan to deal with sin.

- Confront the person privately. Matthew 18:15-17
 - This passage deals with believers, but we should do everything possible to get along with everyone Romans 12:18
 - Jesus is discussing real sin, an actual violation of God's Law.
 - The sin committed is personal, not public.
 - **The GOAL - _____.**
- Step Two – used if your effort fails to convince a brother of sin
 - Take one or two more. Matthew 18:16
 - Provide witnesses. Deuteronomy 19:15
 - Provide evidence to the Church
- Step Three – used if step three is unsuccessful.
 - The Elders of the Church now become involved.
 - Elders have the responsibility to address the complaints of the offended, and to remove scandals. Titus 3:10-11, Hebrews 13:17

Seven ways we can deal with Conflict

- This conflict does not deal with outright sin.
 1. Confront the person/ issue directly and honestly.
 2. Don't go looking for trouble. Proverbs 3:30
 3. Delegate if you know you cannot be successful.
 4. Agree with the person if at all possible. Matthew 5:25
 5. Mediate the issue.
 6. Take the issue to the Lord and leave it there.
 7. Ask God to get involved in a supernatural way.

Are you being a unifier or a divider?

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