

Strategies for Unity

A study prepared by Steve Gregg

I. Why Unity?

- A. Objective unity is a divinely created fact—Eph.2:11-16/ Gal.3:26-28
- B. Disunity is living in denial—Eph.4:4-6 / 1 Cor.12:12-21
- C. Disunity among brethren is infantile—1 Cor.3:1-4
- D. Invest in what God invests in—Eph.2:14-16; 4:7-16
- E. Strife among brethren is an abomination in the sight of God—Prov.6:16-19
- F. Unity can be a harbinger of revival—Acts 2:1 / Psalm 133

II. Why Strategies?

- A. There is an adversary —Luke 22:31
- B. The Devil has much to lose—John 17:11, 20-23 / Matt.18:19-20 / Eccl.4:19-12
- C. The Devil seeks to overthrow Christian unity—Jas 3:14-15
- D. The Devil has strategies— Eph.6:11 / 2 Cor.2:11
- E. Non-resistance guarantees defeat—Eph.4:26-27

III. What Strategies?

A. Humble yourself

- 1. As a prerequisite to resisting Satan— James 4:6-7, 10 / 1 Pet.5:5-6, 8
- 2. As a precondition to Christian Unity—Prov.13:10 / Eph.4:2-3 / Phil.2:1-4

B. Family comes first—Genesis 13:8 / Gal.6:10 / Matt.25:40

Who is my family?— Matt.12:48-50; 23:8 / Tim.2:22 / Rom.14:1-8; 15:7 / Acts 10:15

C. Everyone say the same thing—1 Cor.1:10-13 / Amos 3:3 (*What thing?*)

D. Offenses

- 1. Avoid giving offense—Prov.18:19 / 1 Cor.10:32
- 2. Avoid taking offense—Prov.19:11; 16:32; 25:28 / 1 Cor.13:5

E. Surrender your rights—

- 1. Looking out for others—Phil.2:2-3 / James 3:17 / Matthew 7:12
- 2. Your right to your goods and privileges—Gen.13:9 / 1 Cor.6:7; 9:3-15
- 3. Your right to having the last word—Prov.20:3
- 4. Your right to retaliate—Matt. 6:12-13; Luke 17:3-4; Rom.12:17-21

F. Be a peacemaker—Matt.5:9 / James 3:18 / Heb.10:24 / Isa.58:12

- 1. Listen first, judge after—John 7:24, 51 / Prov.18:13, 17 / James 1:19
- 2. Cut off the tale of the talebearer—Prov.11:13; Prov.16:28; 26:17, 20-22; 25:23