



# THINGS THAT PROMOTE UNITY

*In* THE  
body  
of  
CHRIST

*& Things That Destroy It!*

*1 Corinthians 1:1-13; Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 2:1-5; James 3:13-18*



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**We Are  
All One In  
Christ Jesus**

**1 Cor. 12:13-27**

**Gal. 3:26-29**

**Ep. 2:16**

- When one becomes a Christian – that person enters into a relationship with the Father, Son & Holy Spirit & with other Christians- (Mat 28:18-20; Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:13-14)



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**1 Cor. 12:13-27  
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- The very nature of the relationship should produce unity, cohesion, joint labor & joint success - (1 Pet 3:8; Ep. 2:21, 22; 1 Pe. 2:5).



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**This unity is dependent upon two primary things:**

- ❑ Our submission to the authority of Jesus the Christ.
- ❑ The application of the attitudes commanded by Jesus we are to have toward one another.



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**1 Cor. 12:13-27**

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**We Should Make  
Every Effort To Be  
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- ❑ The Prayer of Christ - John 17:17,21-23
- ❑ The Plea of Paul - 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:1-4; Ep. 4:1-3
- ❑ The Plea of James - James 3:13-17



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**PROVERBS 6:16-19 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup> A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, <sup>19</sup> A false witness who speaks lies, And **one who sows discord among brethren.**



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**ROMANS 16:17-18 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Now I urge you, brethren, **note those who cause divisions and offenses**, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

<sup>18</sup> For those who are **such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ**, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.



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## 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-13 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. <sup>11</sup> For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.



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1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-13 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." <sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?



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1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-13

## Promotes Unity

- ❑ Respect The Authority of Christ – (1-10)
- ❑ Speak where the Bible speaks – (10; cf. 1 Pet 4:11)
- ❑ Have The Same Mind & Judgment – i.e. follow the same leader – Jesus Christ – (10-13)



## Destroys Unity

- ❑ Disrespect Christ's Authority – (10)
- ❑ Push opinions & doctrines of men – (10)
- ❑ Carnality – following men & their doctrines rather than Jesus Christ – (preacheritis) (10-13)



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## EPHESIANS 4:1-6 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.



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**EPHESIANS 4:1-6 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit,  
just as you were called in one hope  
of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one  
faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and  
Father of all, who is above all, and  
through all, and in you all.



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**EPHESIANS 4:1-6**

## Promotes Unity

- ❑ Holiness – (1)
- ❑ Humility – (2)
- ❑ Meekness – (2)
- ❑ Long-suffering – (2)
- ❑ Bearing w/ one another – (2)
- ❑ Earnest effort – (3)
- ❑ Truth – (4-6)

## Destroys Unity

- ❑ Unholy living – (1)
- ❑ Pride – (2)
- ❑ Harshness – (2)
- ❑ Impatience – (2)
- ❑ Selfish / neglecting others needs – (2)
- ❑ Indifference – (3)
- ❑ Error – (4-6)





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**EPHESIANS 4:1-6**

## Promotes Unity

- ❑ One body – 4
- ❑ One Spirit – 4
- ❑ One Hope – 4
- ❑ One Lord – 5
- ❑ One Faith – 5
- ❑ One Baptism – 5
- ❑ One God – 6

## Destroys Unity

- ❑ Many bodies – 4
- ❑ Many revelations – 4
- ❑ Many hopes – 4
- ❑ A different Jesus – 5
- ❑ Any faith ... – 5
- ❑ Many baptism – 5
- ❑ Different God – 6





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PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, <sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.



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## PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,



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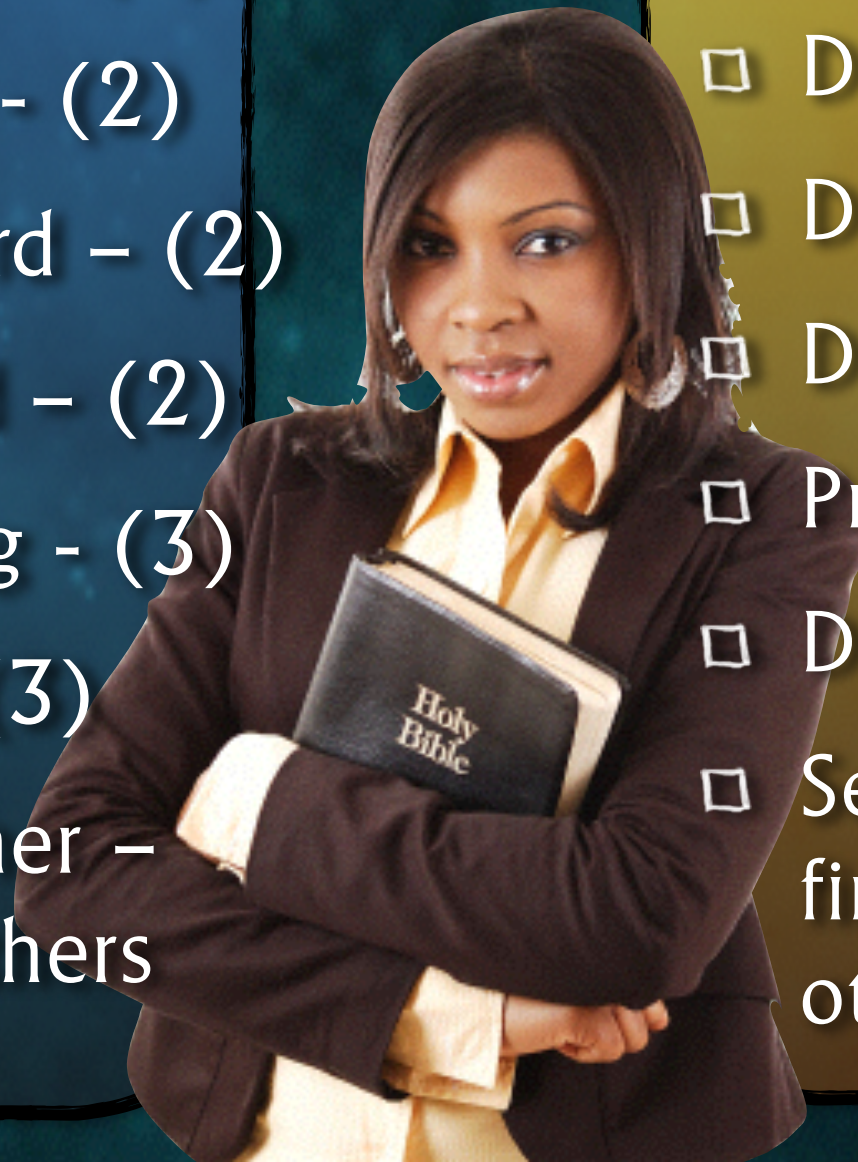
**PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5**

## Promotes Unity

- ❑ Being like minded – (2)
- ❑ Having same love - (2)
- ❑ Being of one accord – (2)
- ❑ Being of one mind – (2)
- ❑ Humility in serving - (3)
- ❑ Mutual respect – (3)
- ❑ Helping one another – actually putting others first - (4)

## Destroys Unity

- ❑ Different priorities – (1)
- ❑ Differing values – (2)
- ❑ Differing affections – (2)
- ❑ Differing focus – (2)
- ❑ Pride, do my thing - (3)
- ❑ Disdain for others – (3)
- ❑ Serving self – putting self first & the needs of others aside - (4)





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## JAMES 3:13-18 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

<sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.



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## JAMES 3:13-18 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. <sup>17</sup>

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



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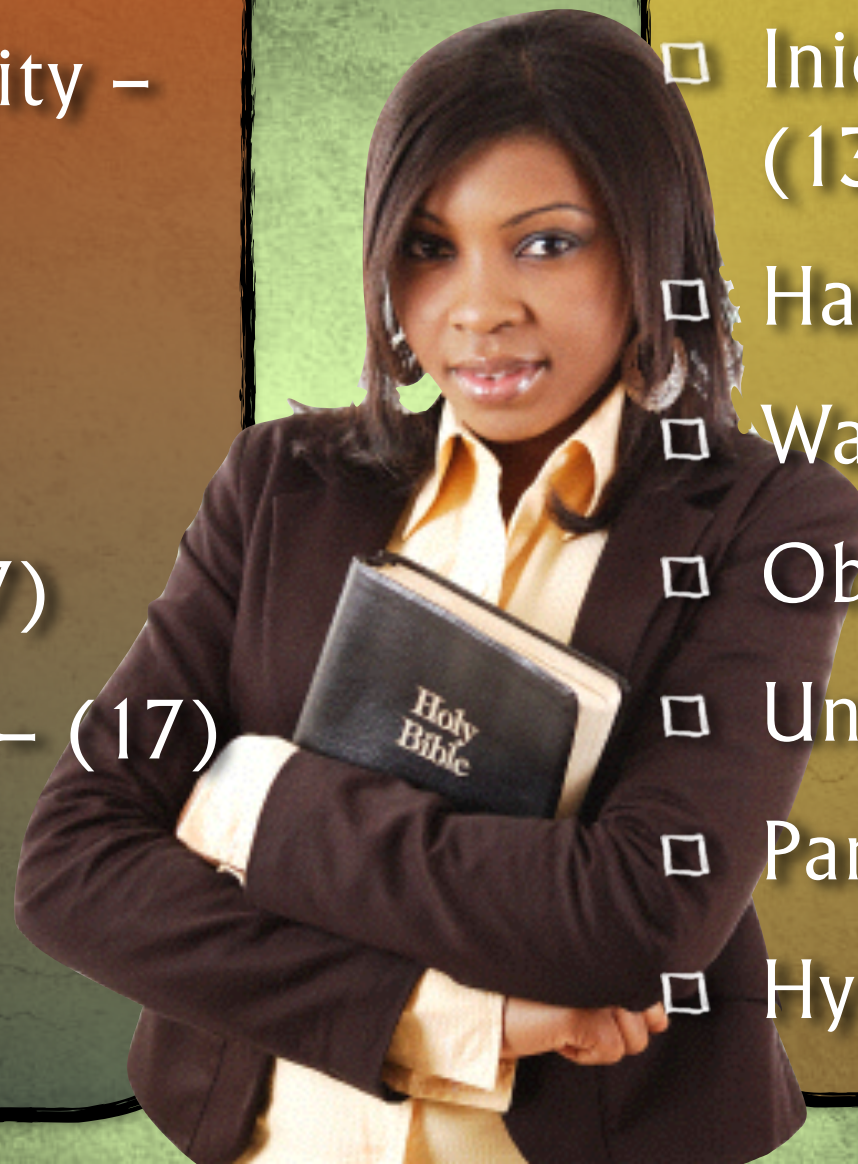
**JAMES 3:13-18**

## Promotes Unity

- ❑ Wisdom from above – (13)
- ❑ Righteousness & purity – (13,17)
- ❑ Meekness – (13,17)
- ❑ Peaceable – (17)
- ❑ Willing to yield – (17)
- ❑ Mercy & good fruits – (17)
- ❑ Impartiality – (17)
- ❑ Sincerity – (17)

## Destroys Unity

- ❑ Earthly wisdom – (13)
- ❑ Iniquity & impurity – (13,17)
- ❑ Harshness, rude – (13,17)
- ❑ Warmongers – (17)
- ❑ Obstinate / stubborn – (17)
- ❑ Unforgiving, evil – (17)
- ❑ Partiality – (17)
- ❑ Hypocrisy – (17)





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**Romans 14:1-15:6 & 1 Cor. 8-14 (NKJ)**



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**1 Cor. 12:13-27**

**Gal. 3:26-29**

**Ep. 2:16**

- Respecting the conscience of others – Rom. 14:12,13,19-23; 1 Cor. 8:8-13
- Being patient while we learn & grow – Rom. 15:1-6
- Do things that will lead to edification – Rom 14:19; 1 Cor. 14:26
- Walk in love – Rom 14:15; Col 3:12-15; 1 Cor. 13



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- God's will is that we be united  
– 1 Cor. 1:10
- God has provided a common standard through which unity is possible – Eph. 5:17
- Unity depends upon our submission to the Divine standard – not just in doctrine – but also in practice!!
- Unity & Peace WILL NOT accidentally, or automatically happen!



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- Unity by believing ONLY what the scriptures SAY! – John 17:20,21; Eph 4:4-6, 1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Tim. 3:16
- Unity by preaching and teaching ONLY things authorized by the scriptures – 1 Peter 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:2
- Unity by staying within the boundaries established by the scriptures - Col. 3:17; 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17; 2 John 1:9



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- Unity by developing the attitudes COMMANDED in the scriptures –

**COLOSSIANS 3:12-15 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. <sup>14</sup> But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.



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- Is your desire to know and follow the TRUTH? Mat 26:39
- Are you willing to lay aside, or at least NOT bind your opinions upon others for the sake of unity?
- Superficial approaches to division will never solve the problem - ONLY by truly conforming our hearts to the Lord's teaching will we ever truly achieve unity!







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# 1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-13 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part. <sup>10</sup> But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.



# 1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-13 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. <sup>13</sup> And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.