

Keys to Unity

1. Don't hold anything in your heart against others on the leadership team

- If you have issues of disagreement with others, then first pray for insight and wisdom on how to resolve the situation.
- After you pray, approach the other person humbly and in a spirit of love, in order to work the situation out with the other person.
- Finally, include forgiveness and prayer together in your resolution of the situation.
- ***Hebrews 12:14–15 (NIV)*** ¹⁴ *Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.* ¹⁵ *See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*

2. Refrain from criticizing one another or the Church

- There will always be things that any of us either aren't keen on or don't fully agree with. This is true of every Church and every organization! Yet, criticism can and has destroyed much good.
- It is best to approach each situation in a spirit of love and with a solution-minded attitude.
- ***Psalm 55:12–14 (NIV)*** ¹² *If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were rising against me, I could hide.* ¹³ *But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,* ¹⁴ *with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship at the house of God, as we walked about among the worshipers.*

3. Refrain from *entertaining criticism* about one another

- When you hear criticism about others in leadership, attempt to shed positive light and perspective on the situation. Encourage the person to personally go and resolve the situation in a spirit of love.
- Criticism quickly becomes destructive when it doesn't move toward positive resolution.
- Gossip destroys reputations and is always missing a piece of the story. Don't allow those outside of leadership to engage you in destructive gossip or criticism.
- ***Proverbs 26:17 (NIV)*** ¹⁷ *Like one who grabs a stray dog by the ears is someone who rushes into a quarrel not their own.*

4. Exercise Confidentiality concerning private conversations when the conversations concern others within the Church

- Use discretion! If a conversation is private in nature, it is always appropriate to ask the source of the information prior to sharing it with others.
- A good rule of thumb is to keep all sensitive matters confidential unless told that the information is permissible to share with certain individuals.

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- ***Ephesians 4:1–3 (NIV)*** ¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

5. Pray for one another regularly

- ***Philippians 1:3–6 (NIV)*** ³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

6. Strive to be actively involved in each other's lives in pursuit of friendship and to be a personal resource of help and encouragement

- ***Hebrews 10:24–25 (NIV)*** ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.