

Unity or Division (defined)

Unity – to bring together, combine or assimilate. To be of like mind, agreement, one accord.

Division – to separate or split up into parts. Biblical time and place to separate.

Diversity – unique identity of individuals within a group. 1 Cor 12 / parts of the body

Uniformity – forced or coerced cloning of personal opinions, ideas or behaviors.

Dissent – stir up trouble, gossip about leaders, allow offense to rule.

Core Values to bring unity –

1. Define your Faith – what do we believe? Primary doctrines (we have 7)

Liberal / Conservative? Bible and Jesus (keep the main thing the main thing!)

Primary practices – prayer, worship, Bible study, **commitment** to fellowship that requires regular sacrifice. (time, finances, etc)

2. Define our Enemy / determine your inner circle –

Stop fighting each other, set healthy boundaries for those closest to you.

3. Define your Mission – reach the lost, include or exclude. Passion for unsaved.

What's our vision to move forward? Who is going to lead each ministry in that direction? What role do I play?

4. Define church Discipline – what happens when we allow (what we permit, we sanction) someone to influence others to leave the path? Leaders or attenders send a mixed message and breed confusion to the body.

Church discipline scripture –

1 Cor 5 – It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. ² And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. ³ For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵ you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord...I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

Hebrews 12 – My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

1 Peter 4:17 - For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?