The Importance of Unity

I. Introduction
   a. Today's culture is too focused on self.
   b. However, the Bible is focused on a community that is walking in unity.
      i. The Bible may refer to the concept of unity as walking in one accord, walking in agreement or walking in togetherness.
   c. There are some things you can be a part of by yourself and they will be great.
      i. However, God has created you to be a part of something that is bigger than yourself.
      ii. This is why there is a part of you that longs to be a part of the community, give back and serve others.

II. Importance
   a. When something is important to you, you:
      i. Study it.
      ii. Spend time with it.
      iii. Think about it.
      iv. Value it.

III. The Importance of Unity
   a. Unity is needed whenever there is more than one person.
      i. Examples include:
         1. Companies
         2. Teams
         3. Marriages
         4. Organizations
         5. Communities
         6. The Church
   b. Unity is needed in the church because the church is the main organization that God uses to mature His people to reach a dying world.
   c. A church that is unified can shake a city and impact millions of people with one committed congregation.

IV. The Definition of Unity
   a. Being united as one
   b. Unity is the manifestation of oneness, harmony and agreement.
   c. Unity is not coercion or conformity by force.
      i. Coercion is a work of the flesh.
      ii. Unity is a work of the Holy Spirit.
d. Biblical agreement and unity is from a mature position of spiritual order.
   i. Unity doesn’t focus on the outside.
   ii. Unity focuses on the inside.

e. Unity does not require for us to think, talk, dress or look exactly the same.
   i. You can still be free to be you and unified.

f. However, to receive the anointing that comes as a result of unity, we must have the same kind of love, faith, passion for God and heart for the vision.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NIV**

9 Two are better than one,  
   because they have a good return for their labor:  
10 If either of them falls down,  
   one can help the other up.  
But pity anyone who falls  
   and has no one to help them up.  
11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.  
   But how can one keep warm alone?  
12 Though one may be overpowered,  
   two can defend themselves.  
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

**Deuteronomy 32:30 NIV**

...one man can chase a thousand or two put ten thousand to flight...

**Matthew 18:19 NIV**

...if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

**Matthew 18:20 NIV**

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

**Psalms 133:1 NIV**

1 How good and pleasant it is  
   when God’s people live together in unity!

V. Your Part in Unity
a. It is your job as a partner of this church to seek unity, maintain unity and promote unity in our church.

b. A church that operates at its highest capacity is filled with people who view themselves as a part of a family, a team and an army.
   i. A family refers our relationships with each other
   ii. A team refers the work we need to get done.
   iii. An army refers to the spiritual warfare that we are involved in.

c. When you decide to be a person that always brings unity in any group that you are a part of, all of your relationships will flourish and become healthier.

VI. How does God Bring Us into Unity?
   a. His Word
      i. As Christians, we submit to the Bible as a final authority of how we conduct the affairs of our lives.

   b. The Holy Spirit
      i. The Holy Spirit leads us into knowledge and understanding.
      ii. A church that does not understand the Holy Spirit will read the Bible, but will not really understand it.
      iii. Therefore, we all need the Holy Spirit.

   c. Godly anointed leadership
      i. A team without a coach or general will never walk in unity or win in war.
      ii. However, every good team, company or family has a good coach, CEO or leader.
      iii. Likewise, every great church has great leadership in the church.
      iv. As a church, we must value having good leadership and cherish it as a prized gift from God.
      v. When the people support, follow and submit to Godly anointed leadership, their lives are blessed and changed.
      vi. We must begin to look at our leaders as unity setters.

VII. What are some of the Greatest Enemies to Unity?
   a. Division
      i. Division is disunion, two visions or anything that is done to divide.

Romans 16:17 NIV
I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause **divisions** and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

**Titus 3:10-11 NIV**

10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. 11 You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

b. Dissension
   i. Dissension is strife or arguing, disagreement and quarreling.
   ii. Don’t quarrel or debate about things that are irrelevant.
   iii. Dissension or quarrelling is a work of the flesh.
   iv. Mature believers know to not try to cast their personal convictions about certain things towards everyone.

**2 Timothy 2:23-25**

23 Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.

c. Discord
   i. Dis means undue and cord represents strength and unit.
   ii. God hates discord.
   iii. Therefore, we should be appalled at and hate discord.

**Proverbs 6:16-19 NKJV**

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

**VIII. How to Walk in Unity**

a. Have Faith in God.
   i. You don’t have to control things.
ii. Instead, submit to the set authority as unto the Lord.
b. Pray that God’s instead of our own will is done in our church.
c. Be willing to do the menial tasks with passion.
d. Be willing to have private conversations with people and encourage them to walk in unity.
e. Take personal ownership of the vision of the house.
f. Ask probing questions about things that you don’t understand.
   i. Know that you might not know everything.
   ii. Approach what you hear with humility and not offense.
g. Never say or allow yourself to hear anything negative about a person that is not in the room.
   i. If you do, then be the peace maker and bring those people together.

1 Corinthians 1:10 NIV

10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.