

**UNITY VS DISUNITY**  
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Regardless of the setting, unity allows people to flourish, discover freedom, work as a team, fulfill the mission, and enjoy the journey. Momentum can be sensed where there is unity. Regardless of the setting, conflict diminishes people, control is exerted, an organization's culture becomes “we-they” (polarization), and the atmosphere is troublesome.

**John 17:20-23** *I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. 22 “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.*

- You never realize how valuable unity is until it’s gone.
- Everything God wants to build, Satan wants to divide and destroy: a marriage, a family, and a church.
- Erosion from unity to disunity is subtle.

**Proverbs 22:10** (Good News Translation) *Get rid of a conceited person, and then there will be no more arguments, quarreling, or name-calling.*

Part of being a pastor or shepherd of a church is protecting people from unity distractors. Unity among God’s people creates a witness for the on-looking outside world. **John 13:35** *Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.*

Lost people are looking to see if those who say God loves them love one another. They’re looking to see how we treat one another.

**Psalms 133:1-3** *How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! 2 For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron’s head, that ran down his beard and onto*

*the border of his robe. 3 Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing, even life everlasting.*

**Ephesians 4.3-6** *Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. 4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. 5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.*

Our enemy is the evil one, NOT other followers of Jesus.

**Ephesians 6:12** *For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

There are Christians who want to expand the Kingdom of Jesus and those who want to expand their vision of how things should be disguised as care for kingdom work.

**Philippians 2:2** *Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.*

**Romans 12:10** *Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.*

### **The Profile of Unity Distractors**

- They seldom, if ever, are alone in their cause.
- They are talented recruiters who invite others who are sympathetic to their grievances.
- Their motto is: ***“Won’t you join my cause?”***

God blesses unity, not division.

**Mark 3:24** *A kingdom divided by civil war will collapse.*

### **Prayer of Salvation**

Jesus, I thank You that You came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and need Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say “No” to living for myself. I turn to You and say “Yes” to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me and forgiving me. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.