

Maintain Church Harmony

Titus 3:9-15

*There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. **Proverbs 6:6-19***

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

Psalms 133:1

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” **John 13:35***

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Romans 14:19

*I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. **1 Corinthians 1:10***

*But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. **Titus 3:9***

*Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. **Titus 3:10-11***

As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need.

Titus 3:12-13

Final Remarks

Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives. Titus 3:14

Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

Titus 3:15

The importance of maintaining harmony in the church

1. We protect the peace and avoid controversy, if possible.

Avoid controversy, if possible

But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, Titus 3:9a

Two reasons to avoid controversies

- They don't accomplish anything
- They are potentially divisive

Five ways to avoid controversy

1. Change the subject
2. Don't bring it up yourself
3. Instead of forcing the issue, just to walk away
4. Use healthy humor

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22

5. Have nothing to do with them

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

1 Corinthians 15:33

2. We confront divisive people when it's necessary.

The importance of maintaining harmony in the church

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. Titus 3:10

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:18

When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because

he was clearly in the wrong.

Galatians 2:11

Three kinds of divisive people in the Church

1. The False Teacher

For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. Titus 1:10-11

2. The Immoral Example

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even

among pagans: A man has his father's wife. 1 Corinthians 5:1

hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord. 1 Cor. 5:5

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? 1 Corinthians 5:6

3. The Contentious Spirit

- Gossip, criticism, anonymous letters, rebellion, hypersensitivity

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's

burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Gal. 6:1-2

How to confront a divisive person

1. Confront them
2. Discuss with church leaders, then the leaders first warn them lovingly
3. Multiple leaders give second warning

Confront

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. Matthew 18:15

Second warning

But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the

testimony of two or three witnesses.' **Matthew 18:16**

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. **Matthew 18:17**

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. **Titus 3:10-11**

The purpose of any kind of spiritual surgery or confrontation is to remove the problem so that the body can be healthy.

3. We practice servanthood at every opportunity.

The importance of maintaining harmony in the church

As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there.

Titus 3:12

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

James 5:14

*Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. **Titus 3:13***

*Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives. **Titus 3:14***

**The very best way to maintain
harmony
in the church is to get our minds
off of ourselves and on to serving
other people.**

*When he had finished washing
their feet, he put on his clothes
and returned to his place. “Do you
understand what I have done for
you?” he asked them. **John 13:12***

*“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’
and rightly so, for that is what I
am. Now that I, your Lord and
Teacher, have washed your feet,
you also should wash one
another’s feet. **John 13:13-14***

*How good and pleasant it is when
brothers live together in unity!*
Psalm 133:1

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:15-16