

CHURCH-LIFE

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:35

Most congregations are composed of members from various backgrounds. This would seem to impose a great challenge to congregational unity and harmony. It needn't be. With God-given directions, it is possible for all members to develop the qualities which demonstrate love and promote oneness.

Honesty

It is the good and honest heart that readily accepts the Word. Luk.8:15

Be up-front in dealings with each other. Eph.4:25

Be truthful in what is said (but don't be “brutally frank”).

Make an honest self-appraisal, and fair and accurate appraisal of others. Gal.6:3

Humility

Be humble in spirit. 1Pe.3:8-9

Be courteous (courtliness and dignity). 1Ti.2:1-2

Be polite, mannerly (showing consideration for others). Tit.3:2

Be not demanding, rather make requests. Phm.8-14

Toleration

Make allowances for personal differences.

Be patient with immature, struggling members. 1Th.5:14-15

Handle others as we wish to be handled. Mat.7:12

Praise

Make frequent expressions of recognition of another's worth.

There is nothing wrong and everything right with praise.

There is a misconception that praise should come *only* from God. Rom.2:29, 1Co.4:5

While we should not seek the praise of others, we need not fear it.

Gratitude

Being grateful is an expression of thankfulness. Luk.17:17

Words of thanks convey the worth attributed to favors received.

Admission of error

Admitting faults sets the stage for the needed correction.

Owning up to mistakes and seeking forgiveness, allows other to forgive. Jam.5:16

Forgiveness

Members need to be ready to forgive those who seek forgiveness. Eph.4:32

It allows a brother sister to be restored back into close fellowship. 2Co.2:7-8

Members are to have the spirit of Christ: “as [like manner] as God in Christ has forgiven you.”

In every group mistakes will be made, expect them. We must work to correct them. Gal 6:1

Once forgiven, the past needs to be forgotten (not brought to mind).

“So the let us pursue the things that make for peace and the building up of one another.”

Romans 14:19