

## How to Get Along With One Another

Ephesians 4:1-3

### Introduction:

#### A. Which is the better personality?

1. Emotional or unemotional
  - a. Jesus showed emotion - He got a \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 2:13-16); He w\_\_\_\_\_ deeply (Jn 11:35)
  - b. Jesus was at times unemotional - He responded c\_\_\_\_\_ to His frantic disciples (Matt 8:26); He told Judas to do what he was going to do q\_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 13:27)
2. A talker or quiet
  - a. Jesus at times was a talker – He talked the whole d\_\_\_\_\_ in His sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7)
  - b. Jesus was s\_\_\_\_\_ during His trial to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 53:7
3. Humorous or serious
  - a. Jesus used humor – a person with a l\_\_\_\_\_ in their eye trying to pick the speck out of another's eye (Matt 7:4); Jesus telling the religious leaders that they s\_\_\_\_\_ a single gnat (Matt 23:24).
  - b. Jesus was very serious many times – it's better for a person to have a mill stone hung around their neck and drowned than to cause a little child to s\_\_\_\_\_ (Lk 17:2).

#### B. The church is made up of people with different personalities, backgrounds, interests, opinions. How can we get along?

1. We all the same c\_\_\_\_\_ (saved for the purpose of serving the Lord)
2. We are to live in a way worthy of that calling.
3. The following verse show how we can get along in spite of our d\_\_\_\_\_.

### We must learn HOW to put up with one another (2)

#### A. We are to put up with one another (show tolerance, forbearance) with these accompanying attitudes:

1. H\_\_\_\_\_ - consider yourself secondary to the person you are putting up with.
2. G\_\_\_\_\_ - synonym of humility; sensitive to the other person.
3. P\_\_\_\_\_ - we all know what that means
4. L\_\_\_\_\_ - the Greek word is agape (based on an unselfish decision to act for the good of another in spite of how you feel – see 1Cor 13:4,5)

B. When there are differences:

1. Allow others to e\_\_\_\_\_ themselves.
2. M\_\_\_\_\_ humility, gentleness, patience, and unselfish love

**We must learn to preserve the unity with one another (3)**

A. The unity of the S\_\_\_\_\_

1. Jesus gave \_\_\_\_\_ believers the same Holy Spirit without dividing Him up (1 Cor 6:19)
2. All the Holy Spirit to d\_\_\_\_\_ you and not your personality, opinion, etc.

B. The bond of p\_\_\_\_\_

1. S\_\_\_\_\_ divides us but peace binds us.
2. We are to make e\_\_\_\_\_ effort to preserve the bond of peace between one another – we must not give up trying.

C. Practical example

1. A church business meeting discussing differing opinions gone wrong where people are raising their voices, threatening to leave the church (humility, gentleness, patience, and love are not evident)
  - a. Someone must step up and say in humility and love - *Division has occurred among us not because we hold different opinions but because of the wrong attitudes. It is okay to have different opinions, but it is not okay for us to sin.* (Read 4:1-3)
  - b. Someone must lead in a session of repentance and forgiveness
    - 1) Read James 5:16 - c\_\_\_\_\_ your sins to those you have wronged.
    - 2) Read Eph 4:32 – f\_\_\_\_\_ those who have wronged you.
    - 3) Say - *Let's have a time of repenting from our sinful attitudes before resuming this discussion. We need to preserve our unity not destroy it. So, can we pray that God convict us of our wrong attitudes and can we have a time of confessing those sins to one another and forgiving one another as Christ has forgiven us?*
  - c. Someone should suggest that the business meeting end with an assignment:
    - 1) L\_\_\_\_\_ pros and cons of the opinions

- 2) P\_\_\_\_\_ that God prepare your heart to discuss the pros and cons in humility, gentleness, patience, and love.
  - 3) Be willing to l\_\_\_\_\_ with whatever opinion is decided on (if it proves to not work out, then learn from it – wisdom).
2. A personal matter that is bringing division or has brought division
- a. Recognize that sin has brought the division and make every effort to r\_\_\_\_\_ that relationship by getting sin out of the way (Eph 4:1-3).
  - b. If you have sinned – c\_\_\_\_\_ that sin to God and ask the person for f\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. If the other person has sinned - lovingly c\_\_\_\_\_ them with humility, gentleness, patience, and love (Gal 6:1)
  - d. If the person refuses to repent follow the steps of Matt 18:15-17 with carefully chosen mature believers to help r\_\_\_\_\_ the relationship)

## Conclusion:

*Therefore, I, the chained in the Lord,  
Urge you to live in a way  
That measures up to the calling  
By which you were called that day.*

*Do this in a loving manner  
By bearing with one another,  
Yet having all humility  
And gentleness toward the other.*

*Do this by being diligent  
To keep yourselves unified,  
Chained together in harmony  
With the Spirit as your guide.*

(The Poetic Scriptures of Paul: God's Word in Rhythm & Rhyme)