

“The Lord’s Desire for His Church”

Rev. Michael Stewart

Solutions For Life in the Church: “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I** will build **My** church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.” Matt. 16:18

The Lord’s _____ for His church

Make Disciples. The Great Commission Matt. 28:19-29

The Lord’s _____ for His Church

Oeness/Unity. “Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the Bond of peace” **Ephesians 4:1-3**

➤ **The _____ for Oeness/Unity**
Eph. 4:4-6

There is **one** body and one Spirit, just as you were called in **one** hope of your calling; **one** Lord, one faith, **one** baptism; **one** God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

How we deal with one another reflects upon the Godhead.

Are we sending mixed messages to a lost world?

➤ **The _____ of Unity Phil. 2:1-5**

Be like-minded – “cherish the same views”

Have the same love – “blest be the tie that binds”

Be of one accord – “united in their affections”

Be of one mind – “have the same goals”

Remove selfish motives – may be the greatest sin of the church

Esteem others – “to lead others”

Look out for the interests of others – “just what it says”

Have the mind of Christ – explained in following versus

How To Retain Unity? Three Filters

- Say No to _____
James 4:1

When I impose my wants and wishes on others, conflict and/or war will inevitably follow because I approach the Lord’s church through selfish motives.

- Say Maybe to _____
Col. 2:16-23

If I try to impose my conviction on others, they might disagree and potential conflict might result. I’m not the Holy Spirit.

- Say Yes to _____
2Tim. 3:16; 2 Pt. 1:19-21

Approaching every decision through Biblical truth and the mind of Christ is the only way to create and retain unity.

Do you understand the Lord’s Design for His church?

Are you helping or hindering the Lord’s Desire for His church?