

How to Become an Agent of **UNITY WITHIN THE CHURCH**

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God's vision for the church is that we love each other with the same love he has shown to us. Just like every human parent, he wants his children to get along. In fact, God calls us to be agents of unity within the church.

The Bible says, *"Live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose"* (1 Corinthians 1:10 NLT).

So how do you become an agent of unity?

Focus On Things We Have in Common

Ephesians 4:4-6 says, *"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all"* (NIV).

This means we share the same salvation, the same forgiveness, the same hope, the same faith, the same power, the same ultimate purpose, and the same true God. These factors are far more important than our gender, race, education, and economic status—and they're the things God wants us to focus on.

Realize We Must Continually Work at Unity

Ephesians 4:3 says, *"Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace"* (NLT).

Unity among believers only happens when you're intentional about it, when you *"make every effort"* to build unity. Here are two ways you can work on building unity: Don't bring worldly values into the church, and don't get caught up in arguments.

Be Realistic in Our Expectations

Psalms 119:96 says, *"Nothing is perfect except your words"* (TLB).

Nothing on this planet works perfectly except God's Word. So, to expect perfection in your church is to set yourself up for massive disappointment. Many people in the church will disappoint you, but that's no excuse to not fellowship with them. You'll be spending eternity with people you struggle with, so you can't just walk out on them. God wants you to love the real church, not the ideal church.

Offer Encouragement Instead of Criticism

Romans 14:19 says, *"Let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up"* (NLT).

We are never persuasive when we're abrasive. If you say something offensively, it will be received defensively. The time we spend comparing or criticizing fellow believers is time we can instead spend building each other up.