

UNITY IN HIS CHURCH IS A BLESSING FROM GOD, NEEDED TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL – *Jn 17:21,23*

The Lighthouse -- Kaitaia – 9/3/08 – ekb

God is One *Deut 6:4* The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. *2Cor 13:14*

There are Persons and order in God with perfect oneness. *Eph 4:4-6.* The Spirit, the Lord and the Father are in perfect unity.

As we **mature in God** together, our **oneness increases.** *1Jn 1:7, Gal 5:16, Rom 8:14.*
[Sin divides us, *1Cor 3:1-3.* God unites us, *2Cor 1:21, Eph 4:3, Mal 2:14,15, Mat 19:6, 1Cor 12:13, Gal 3:27,28*] God tells us to be quick to maintain the unity of the Spirit which He has given us. *Eph 4:3.*

We need oneness in marriage, family and church and with our neighbours.

Oneness is power, strength, authority and effectiveness to achieve the desired goal, such as reaching the lost with the Gospel. **IT IS A TEAM. An army has to be in unity** to defeat the enemy and take the land.

Jesus has given to us six **basic commands to restore and maintain unity. The Holy Spirit enables what Jesus commands.** *Phil 2:13.*

Mat 7:1,2 **Release others** from your condemning judgment. *Rom 14:4,10,13.* (or reap the same). Evaluative judgment is important and good. *1Thes 5:21, Ac 17:11, 1Jn 4:1, 1Cor 10:15.*

Mk 11:25,26, **Forgive others** their sins against you and **be forgiven by God.** *Lk 17:3, Mat 18:21–35.* If our sins are not forgiven then our unforgiven sins cut us off from God's mercy and grace. *Is 59:1,2.*

Lk 6:27-42 **Pray and bless** those who hurt you. (eg. Use *Col 1:9,10, Ac 26:18*) It is taking a place of authority in God, over the situation, so that you are not under it. Refuse all bitterness.

Jn 13:4-17 **Choose to be a servant** to others out of a secure identity in Christ, **by the leading of the Holy Spirit.** *Mat 20:20 - 28, Phil 2:5-8, Jn 13:34,35, Gal 5:13, Lk 22:27. Be like Jesus.*

Mat 5:23,24 **Go and apologise** when you hurt another.

Mat 18:15 **Go to your brother** and try to sort out the problem when he sins against you.

If these steps are obeyed, then in most cases unity will be maintained.
[In extreme cases you may need a mediator. *Phil 4:3.* In very extreme cases you may need a judge. *1Cor 6:5, 1-8*]

The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to humble ourselves, to serve others, by doing these things.
Phil 2:13, Gal 5:13.

God gives the Kingdom and Rule of God to the humble. *Jn 13:4-17.* Humility is taking a place of a servant to others out of a secure identity in Christ by the leading of the Holy Spirit. *Mat 20:20-28, Lk 22:27.*
Mat 18:3,4, Lk 18:9-14, Phil 2:5-11, Is 66:1,2, Mat 5:3, Is 57:15.

Let's get rid of pride which is critical, judging, despising others, lifting self up, putting others down, unforgiving, self righteous, mocking, ridiculing, hating. *Pro 6:16-19, Pro 8:13, Jer 13:15-17, 2Tim 3:2.*