

One Body

Scripture

"[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. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" ——what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." (Eph 4:4-16 NKJV)

Devotion

Unity doesn't mean unanimity, but it does have a common goal. Christ gave gifts to men so that the body might function in unity to that common goal. That stated goal is the growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Every believer has been given a measure of grace. Some were given pastoral gifts, teaching gifts, and others gifts particular to evangelism. While these are mentioned in the passage with others and it's possible that you see none of those qualities in your life, it is important to realize you have been gifted in some way to edify the body. Every part does its share. As it is written, ". . . we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function." (Ro 12:4 NKJV)

However, we should all have the same goal to edify the body of Christ. This means we are not to be like children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men. Instead, we are to speak the truth in love.

If you find that you are on the opposite side of an issue, the goal of unity demands that you use caution. If the Gospel is not under attack, then calmly stating what you believe to be true without arguing may be the best course of action. Certainly time and prayer are allies in the war of understanding. On the other hand, impatience and self-reliance will often lead to schisms.

Remember, 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.