

UNITY OF PURPOSE AS A MEMBER OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Session 9

Let's Pray

As we become a vital part of the church body,
Lord, help these scriptures to remind us what is
important is the souls of others and that
reaching these souls requires a unified effort
among the church family.

As we go through these scriptures choose one that really “speaks” to you and write it on a slip paper.

At the end of this session you can put this “scripture slip” in your wallet or purse and use it to help you remember what this “step” is in learning to walk with Christ.

Amos 3:3

This verse makes clear that two people cannot walk together for whatever purpose unless they agree on the direction to walk.

Acts 2:42-47

After Jesus' death the believers joined forces to worship and work together with one purpose—God's kingdom.

1 Corinthians 12:25-26

These verses tell us that together with other believers we are to act as one body. The hand cannot reach for something unless the mind, eyes, upper body, and arm work with it.

Ephesians 4:3-6

We are to do our best to be united with other believers in harmony. We may have differences but we all serve the same God and share the same purpose—soul winning.

Titus 3:9-11

Here we are told to stay from pointless disagreements about petty things. We are to focus on God's truths.

1 Peter 4:8-9

We are to let love cover over the small stuff and be about helping others.

These two verses, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament summarize this lesson.

Nehemiah 8:1 and 1 Corinthians 1:10

In Nehemiah after being released from 70 years of captivity, the people realized their need for unity and came together to hear the reading of God's word.

Paul instructs us to have no divisions in the church.

One thing we have to know and believe is that God expects us to work together to accomplish the mission of the church.

Stop for a minute and think of how you would define the word church.

Here's one definition: The church is a group of baptized believers organized on earth to do God's will (Tommy Hammond, pastor). This really sums up our purpose which will not be accomplished unless we work together with the common goal of reaching souls.

If the chief purpose of the church is to win souls for the Kingdom of God then we truly have much to do and the time left to do this is getting shorter and shorter.

Think about this: On a scale of 1-100 where does getting people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ fit?

On that same scale where does a petty grievance fit?

We must be sure to work on the important stuff.

Sometimes churches can get “hung up” on petty items and church business meetings can waste time discussing what color the color of the cushions on the new pews instead of spending time creating a plan for getting people in the doors of the church to sit on those pews and hear God’s word for them.

New Christians should make a point of getting involved in the business of the church. Fresh eyes often see things more clearly than many old eyes can.

New Christians should also get a copy of the constitution and by-laws of the church. You need to understand the rules under which this particular church operates.

Everything that we have examined in this session is summarized in the assurance that follows.

Assurance 9:

***I AM ONE WITH GOD'S FAMILY AND
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO SWEAT THE
SMALL STUFF!***

This concludes session 9

Let's pray.

The church is Yours, Lord. Help us to be a growing part of the body of the church so that we can mature and do the work You have called us to do.