

LOVE AND UNITY

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Psalm 133:1-3 "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! ...For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore." NIV

Four practical steps that will help reduce conflict:

I. STRIVE FOR _____ AND _____ . (vs. 1-2)

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose." - **Philippians 2:1-2**

A. Unity not _____ .

"May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." - **John 17:23**

B. Love is _____ for success.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - **John 13:34**

II. PUT _____ FIRST. (vs. 3-4)

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." - **Philippians 2:3-4**

A. This standard is "Out of this _____."

B. Conflict ALWAYS involves _____ .

True **J.O.Y.** = **J**_____, **O**_____, **Y**_____

III. IMITATE CHRIST WITH _____ . (vs. 5-8)

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7= but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!" - **Philippians 2:5-8**

A. _____ : The key to reducing conflict.

B. Humble _____...so God doesn't have to.

"For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and who ever humbles himself will be exalted." - **Matthew 23:12**

- Example of Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 4)

IV. _____ TO GOD'S AUTHORITY. (vs. 9-11)

"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." - **Philippians 2:9-11**

A. _____ knows best.

"What causes fights & quarrels among you?...That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." - **James 4:1a; 6b-7**

B. Give Him _____ of you life.