

Be a Blessing to the Body of Christ
By Loving Devotion to Your Spiritual Siblings - Part 1
Unto the Unity of the Body

Our Lord Jesus's intention and prayer for His churches are that they would live in unity, harmony, and solidarity – see John 17:11, 21, 23.

- What are the things that most often cause strife and disunity within the church, i.e. in relationships between Christians?

This morning we will look at the biblical prescription for preventing and healing the "disease of disunity" in our churches. Let's look at three biblical commands that will, when obeyed, result in the blessed unity in our churches that our Lord intends.

I. _____ **One Another**

A. The _____ of our Forgiveness – **Matthew 18:21–22**

B. *The _____ of Forgiveness – Colossians 3:12–14*

In this text the apostle commands ***the heart attitudes*** that make for unity and harmony amongst the saints, within the church.

- What does it look like in your relationships with fellow believers to have these attitudes toward one another?
- In what situations are these attitudes most needed and most challenging?

C. *The _____ of Forgiveness – 2 Corinthians 2:6–8*

D. *The _____ For Your Forgiveness – Ephesians 4:32*

- Is there any amount of sin that you've done or might do that would disqualify you for being forgiven by God?

II. _____ **One Another** – Galatians 6:1–3

Here we see a beautiful outworking of love and affection between brothers and sisters in the family of God. The main command by Paul is for the saints to love their spiritual siblings by restoring them to righteous living when they get caught in a sinful way of thinking or acting.

We are commanded to perform this spiritual service for our brothers and sisters, but there is a specific *manner* to that restorative work:

A. In _____ (v.1)

B. With _____ (v.1)

C. Remembering _____ (v.2)

D. Without _____ (v.3)

III. _____ **One Another** – 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11;
2 Corinthians 1:3–7

The word is *parakaleo* (παρακαλέω) in the original Greek, and it is a compound verb meaning "to call alongside" to either encourage or comfort.

- What afflictions have you faced in life, either long ago or more recently—maybe even currently? Have you been tempted to ask "why"?