

Five Tips for Developing Unity with Others

Prayer & Ministry Ideas that Unify

- **Forgive all offences, and make things right!**

When do you forgive? If you have something against someone!

“And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” Mark 11:24

If you remember that someone has something against you!

“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” Matt. 5:23,24

Pray and ask yourself if you've been harsh or insensitive to a family member, friend, colleague, or fellow church member in any way? Have you done something to offend someone? The Holy Spirit will reveal these things to you if you ask Him! Make all wrongs right!

- **Start Praying Together for a common goal!**

In addition to specific time for Bible Study, start a prayer group, or use prayer meeting as a real *prayer meeting!* It's okay to share and pray for your own burdens, but it's also very unifying to be praying for a common goal together; this might be praying for backslidden members you want to see brought back into the church, for your pastor and leadership or local conference leadership, for your community and specific individuals you want to see come to truth, or for church growth. Whatever you do, make prayer goals and be specific claiming the promises of God in faith until you see God answer.

“There is no danger that the Lord will neglect the prayers of His people. The danger is that in temptation and trial they will fail to persevere in prayer.” *Christ Object Lessons*, p. 175

- **Do Ministry Projects Together!**

Learn to serve together with a common united mission and focus. Work on a ministry project for the church, go door-to-door, host an evangelistic series. Just pray for God to lead, and pray together often as you work on tasks. As you embrace an outward focus as a church, rather than a self-centered, self-pleasing one, God will draw you close together.

- **Surround each Other in a Special Family Prayer Time!**

Based on James 5:16, we encourage you to gather together as a church body, maybe during a Sabbath afternoon or evening (when time is unrestricted), and pray for one

another's burdens specifically. Initially people might be wary of taking time to do this (so you might have to be creative in getting them together), but once you start praying, they usually can't leave. It's such a powerful uniting experience for all that take part.



How do we do this?

Usually, we gather in a family type circle (sometimes kneeling or standing) with one person in the middle (usually we have them sit in a chair). We then ask the person in the middle, who has volunteered to be prayed for first, to share *briefly* how their church family can pray for them specifically. Then we press close together with our hands on their shoulder, and 2 or 3 people take turns

praying for them! (Usually we limit it to 2 or 3 people praying over each individual so that we have enough time to pray for others. However, different people can take turns praying as the Holy Spirit prompts them, so it's not usually the same 2 or 3 people that are praying each time someone comes to the middle.)

After we've finished praying for this first person, hugged them, and sometimes dried their tears, we then invite another person into the circle who wishes to be prayed for, and on and on until everyone who desires personal prayer by their church family has received it.

This is a powerful and practical way to bear each other's burdens in prayer. We've seen this family prayer time break down barriers and bring healing among church members in a remarkable way time and time again. So often we are harsh and critical with each other because we don't understand the pain and burdens we each bear. But once we start to share and pray for each other in a tight family like circle, where love and acceptance is offered, the harsh judgmental spirit is replaced with tenderness and understanding, and as a result, unity with our brothers and sisters comes. It's a beautiful thing, especially as we, with open Bibles, claim the promises of God for one another! Sometimes we sing spontaneously as well, in between praying for someone. Whatever you do, allow the Holy Spirit to lead, and pray in faith claiming God's promises for each need that is presented.

- **Have a Family Testimony Night!**

This would be ideal for a Friday evening vespers or as part of an Agape Banquet. Have an opening prayer and some singing and then take turns allowing people to share brief testimonies about how God is working in their life. Try to keep them 3-5 minutes max, since long testimonies are tiring on the listeners. We often fellowship and worship with believers that we don't even know, so a time of testimony and sharing really opens our eyes to those around us as we share God's blessings together. It's also a powerful witness and helps build our faith as we reflect on how God is working in our lives.

For more group prayer ideas and resources, visit: www.revivalandreformation.org