

Leading Toward Unity

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Quotes from Merle

_____ is a strong theme in the words of Jesus and in the writings of the apostles.

Church history and practice have encouraged us to accept an understanding of _____ in the church that is not the same as that which the New Testament seems to require.

Scripture

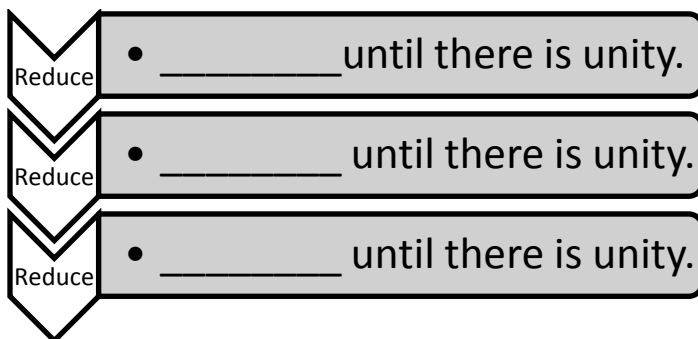
Make every _____ to keep the _____ of the Spirit through the bond of _____.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you _____ with one another in what you say and that there be no _____ among you, but that you be perfectly _____ in mind and thought. (1 Corinthians 1:10)

Foundational Assumptions

- Unity is only possible within the _____.
- Unity is a major New Testament theme, not a _____.
- The New Testament does not _____ that boundaries be drawn within the body of Christ.

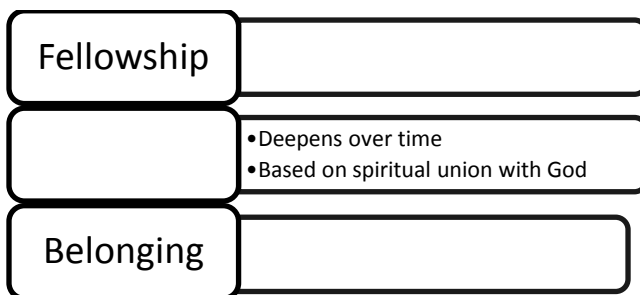
Malpractice Reduction Solution



Tactics that Fail

Logic		Contempt		Legislation	
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Levels of Unity



	Description	Examples	How to Lead
Creed		Who is Jesus Christ: Apostles' Creed	No compromise; Gatekeepers; Defenders of the faith Build unity around
Contemporary Doctrine	Makes Kingdom principles practical and recognizable; Constructed and articulated by the community of faith in time, place, culture; My be adjusted or revised by the church		Formulate doctrines that are relevant to our times and our questions; Respect and refuse to ridicule
Convictions		Alcoholic beverages; Employment on Sunday; Definitions of modesty; Patriotism	
Preferences	Variable responses to questions and issues		Respect

Principles from Romans 14 and 15

1.

2.

3.

Positive Steps Toward Unity

- Every person may move directly toward _____—right from their current position. They do not first need to come stand where I am standing.
- Unity comes with a _____.
- Aggressively work to raise levels of _____.
- Build vision through the _____.
- Consciously distinguish matters of _____, _____, _____, and _____.
- Build the _____ of accepting others whom _____ has accepted.
- Speak of differing doctrines and convictions with _____ and _____.
- Pursue a deeper understanding of another's _____ and _____.
- Reconsider any _____ based on differing doctrines and convictions.