

Prayers.

Winifred and her family.

Agnes

Trevor; Irene.

Eric and Family.

Margaret and John.

Roy and Beryl.

Joel's work in India

Joyce and her son
Keith.

Blossom and her Family

Yemi and Family

Sylvia

Ruth

Those have Fallen
Away

To all our members who
are not here for one
reason or another.

That God may open
people's hearts to the
gospel and that God will
add to our number.

Study

ScripturesSay.com.

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Principles for Unity

Paul exhorted the church at Ephesus to walk worthy of their calling, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." An endeavor is an exerted effort undertaken to reach a desired result. In the case that Paul sets forth, maintaining unity is that effort that we undertake that requires exertion! Unity doesn't just happen; we must work at it in order to have it, and it is worth having. Our efforts unity must not compromise doctrinal truth, but be based upon it. Hence, we have the seven great "ones" of Ephesians 4:4-6. In such matters we cannot compromise truth for "unity." However, in matters upon which one's salvation doesn't hinge, there are some principles for maintaining harmonious unity among the brethren. Let's discuss a few of these things.

First, there is always the safe thing to do. Let's suppose that we are discussing a doctrinal issue and there are two equally possible ways to understand a scripture. Take for example the qualification of elders to be the "husband of one wife" (1 Timothy 3:2). It is clear that a man that has never been married would not meet this qualification. It is also clear that a woman would

not meet this qualification. However, what about the man whose spouse has died and he now has a second wife? Some say that he is qualified. Some say that the qualification means one wife for life.

How ought we to resolve the matter? In my opinion he is qualified. The path is equally clear to meeting this qualification if he has one wife at a time. It is only when one



comes to the table with the preconceived notion that it is "one wife for life", **that it causes disunity**. To those who understand the qualification as having one wife at a time, that person understands that one wife in a man's life also qualifies him to be an elder. Therefore the path is "more clear for unity" by accepting both situations on an equal basis.

Second, we do not necessarily need to insist upon our way of things even if we know we are right. There is a principle

in scripture that Paul sets down in 1 Corinthians 6:7 that sometimes we ought to accept being wrong in order to maintain unity in the body. The example that Paul uses is a brother taking another brother to court.

There may definitely be someone in the right and someone who is wrong in such a situation. However, Paul teaches that it would be better to be defrauded than to engage in such shameful behavior. This principle can be applied to other situations as well.

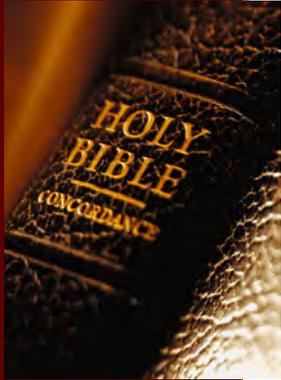
Unity trumps our "right" to be right in such matters. Sometimes it is better to suffer wrong than to demand "satisfaction."

Third, we need to exercise plenty of patience with those who are in error on matters that would not be the source of division (James 5:10).

There are some sins that individuals commit that don't threaten the unity of the church and there are some that do. In those sins that don't threaten our unity, we need to be patient and allow people to grow.

Con Inside

Bible Studies for the Week of January 13th 2008



AM Sermon.....	No Details Given (Trevor)
Scripture Reading for Sermon	No Details Given
Adult Bible Study	The Church (Ricci)
Scripture Reading for service.....	Zechariah 6; Rev 6
Sunday School Class.....	No Details Given
Thursday Bible Class.....	Daniel (Trevor)
Ladies Bible Class	
Men's Bible Class	

“Every Christian has the obligation to grow (2 Peter 3:18) and the fact of the matter is that we don’t learn everything about being a Christian all at once.”



Principles cont.

Every Christian has an obligation to grow (2 Peter 3:18) and the fact of the matter is that we don't learn everything about being a Christian all at once. Moreover, some learn through teaching and others through personal experience.

Each of these avenues requires patience in those who are spiritually mature to allow the learning Christian to absorb the material as well as apply practical experience to the information. Patience goes a long way toward unity.

These certainly aren't the only practical prin-

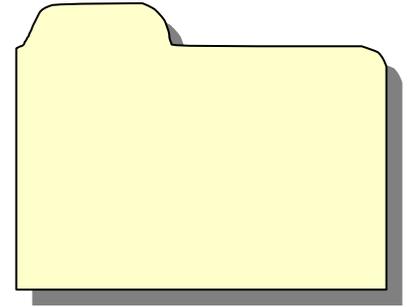
ciples for unity, but a generous application of each of these principles in our lives will help us to be united. Of course, in all of our Christian life we need to coat everything with a strong layer of love. Love goes a long way toward resolving differences before they get started.

Love doesn't solve everything, but we are definitely worse off without it than with it. So on top of everything else, we need to maintain an attitude of love toward one another. With love as our attitude and a willingness to practice pa-

tience, suffer wrong, and choose the safe path, along with our efforts to base unity on truth, we can maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

For The Files: Week Beginning December 6th 2007

Sunday Bible Class.....	8
Sunday AM Worship.....	25
Sunday School.....	No Class
Tuesday Night Study - Once in the Month.....	4
Thursday Evening Study	No Details Given.
Contribution.....	£92.00
Budget.....	£100.00.



Ricci's Corner. (Tough Things)

Some years back I was sprayed with hot pepper spray as part of my police training. The process is referred to as being "pepper sprayed, or CS'D" This is a mandatory part of police training so that if someone were to spray you while you were on duty as Police officer, you would know what to expect and how to deal with the experience. It was also necessary because pepper spray is used in police force and when it is being sprayed, it can go everywhere. I have to admit that I was a bit apprehensive about it; nonetheless, it is something that had to be done if I was to serve as a Police officer. It was an experience that I was willing to go through in order to be what then I desired to be.

Such experiences are part of life. There are many things that perhaps we don't necessarily want to do in order to get to the goals that we are seeking to

achieve. The athlete training for the Olympics doesn't want to puke his guts out, but he realizes that such comes with the intensity of the training in order for him to compete. The college student doesn't necessarily want to memorize all of the facts and figures of history, but must so do if he wishes to obtain a degree. Missionaries don't necessarily want to sit on an airplane for hours on end, but willingly do so because they know the work needs to be done. We do what we must in order to reach our set goals.

When we look at the character of God we understand this to be one of His traits also. After man's fall, God desired to redeem man from His sins so that He could once again live in fellowship with Him. The price that had to be paid for this was God's only begotten Son, whom He loved dearly. Nevertheless, God paid the price in order to obtain the set goal.

Jesus also recognized this principle. While He was on earth, He suffered many privations. He said, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (Luke 9:58). He was persecuted both by the Pharisees and Sadducees. They finally put Him to death because He taught (rightfully) that He was the Messiah and the Son of God. While they didn't know it, this was part of God's plan for salvation. Jesus recognized such and said, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." He knew that He had to go through this if He was to fulfill the Father's plan for man's forgiveness. Thank God Jesus did the hard thing!

Yes, we all have to do hard things from time to time. Let's not be discouraged because of it, but rather, take heart that enduring the suffering for the moment will produce peaceable fruits of righteousness (Hebrews 12:11).



"While He was on earth, He suffered many privations."

IMPORTANT INFO

We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!

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Congregation Meeting:
127/01/08

Birthdays: Non Noted

Ask A Bible Question, Log onto:

ScripturesSay.com

God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

Welcome!

Visit our web site: www.SummerLanecoc.com

Times for Worship and Study.

Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
 Sunday Morning Bible Study.....10:00 AM
 Sunday School.....10:00 AM
 Ladies Bible Class Every Second Monday 12:30 PM
 Thursday Evening Bible Class.....7:30 PM
 Men's Bible Study Class.....First Tuesday in the Month 7:30 PM

Serving Each Other

January 13th 2007

January 20th 2007

Sunday Morning

President

Roy

Norman

Preaching:

Trevor

Ricci

Opening Prayer:

Scripture Reading:

Trevor

Trevor

Richard

Ricci

Lord's Table

Ricci

Edwin

Eric

Philip

Closing Prayer

Sunday Evening.

Flowers

Hazel

Trinidad

Tea

Hazel

Trinidad

Building clean for Jan: 08

All Please

ALL Please