

The Church is One Body
Ephesians 4:1-7 & 11-16

The human body is astounding and sophisticated. In Eph. 4, Paul challenges us to function as a _____ like a _____ does.

While praising God in Eph. 3, Paul wrote that the Father is to be _____ in the church! The one crucial ingredient that a church must possess if it is to bring glory to the Father is _____. We aren't asked to secure unity but to maintain the unity given us by the Spirit. In the church, we don't have to _____ unity. It was given to us by the Spirit. But we can apparently _____ it.

The Bible focuses first on building _____ unity: how we each get along with one another. This is unity at the cellular level. Gal. 5:15 warns about disunity at this level. It says, "If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be _____ by each other."

How do we avoid cancerous relational disunity in the church? By each of us being _____, _____, and _____. Patience includes enduring one another. These are some of the _____ words to obey in the Bible. How are you doing with these commands?

Next, the Bible emphasizes building _____ unity: how we relate to one another as a whole body. Every person and ministry must submit to Christ as the _____. This is accomplished through the guidance of those with _____ gifts Christ gave to His church and by each of us being _____ with the Spirit. Those filled with the Spirit will function in concert with the head: Christ.

Finally, the Bible focuses on _____ unity—the body not just being healthy and functional but doing what it is _____ to do. Our mission—to reach people for Christ—should _____ us to pursue unity so that we can function as a body for the _____ we have been designed.

I believe moms have been gifted by God to pursue the relationships within the family, so the family functions well. May we all have the _____, making every effort to keep the _____ of the Spirit in the bond of _____.