

What I Do Part 1 Ephesians 4:1-6

You have wings! So therefore you can fly!

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” Eph. 4:1 (NIV)

John 13:34-35 *“So I’m giving a new commandment to you now, love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you’re my disciples.”*

If you were Satan and you look down and see a church that’s giving glory to God and you want to stop that how do you do it?

- You mess with its love for each other.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT CHURCH? **PEOPLE!**

HOW DO YOU BUILD A GREAT CHURCH? **UNITY “together with”**

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE FRIENDS A GREAT CHURCH?

1. Develop three attitudes.

A great church has certain attitudes so you develop three attitudes. They may surprise you.

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” Eph. 4:2

1. Humility - is not seeing ourselves as less important. It’s seeing others as more important.

2. Gentleness _____

3. Patience _____

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE FRIENDS A GREAT CHURCH?

2. Determine to work at it.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Eph. 4:3 (NIV)

1.The effort is mine

2.The unity is the Spirits

3.The bond of peace is the Cross!

“God made peace through the blood of Christ’s death on the cross.” Col. 1:20 (NCV)

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE FRIENDS A GREAT CHURCH?

3. Discover the need for unity in purpose and diversity in personalities.

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE FRIENDS A GREAT CHURCH?

4. Dedicate yourself to God's truth.

“There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Eph. 4:4-6 (NIV)

That's where our unity and purpose comes from. We're all looking at one word, one truth together. In fact the Bible teaches us here in Ephesians 4 there are seven basic spiritual realities that unify us, that form the foundation for our unity. They are so important.

One body. That's talking about the church and the oneness of the church and what God has made the church to be.

One Spirit. That's a second spiritual reality that ties us together, that's a foundation in our lives. One Spirit and that's the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

One hope. We're all looking forward to the same heaven.

One Lord. Only one Lord that we're going to bow our knee to – Jesus Christ.

One faith. Jude 3 talks about the "faith that was once delivered to the saints."

One trust. We all trust in the same Jesus to deliver us from our sin.

One baptism. We've all been marked by God with the same Holy Spirit as believers.

This is talking about the baptism of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

One God. There's not a different brand of God for different person. There's one God in heaven.

This is the foundation. And if as believers you don't agree about these things, you don't agree. This is the foundation. But if you do agree about these things you have an undeniable foundation for unity.

Let me give you a practical thing to do with this. When you're tempted to disunity ("I don't want to put up with that person any more!") Here's some things to remember:

One Body: Whatever hurts them, hurts me

One Spirit: The Spirit within us agrees

One Hope: We're going to spend eternity together

One Lord: Jesus thought of us both as He died on the cross

One Faith: We agree on THE MOST important things

One Baptism: We are marked by God as believers

One God: We are both creative expressions of a loving God.