

What I Do Part 2

Ephesians 4:7-13

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WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE FRIENDS A GREAT CHURCH?

1. Develop three attitudes.

Humility Gentleness Patience

2. Determine to work at it.

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

What can I do to make Friends a great church?

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

Does this mean I have to always agree with every other believer?

How should we handle it when believers see things differently?

Here are some examples:

- Paul and Barnabas (*Acts 15:37) – the answer is sometimes to each do what God has given to your hearts to do.
- Jews and Gentiles (Acts 15:2) – the answer is sometimes to have a formal meeting to discover your common ground.
- Paul and Philetus (2 Tim. 2:16-18) – the answer is sometimes to recognize that another is wandering from the faith... and to cut off the relationship.
- Euodia and Syntyche (Phil. 4:2) – The answer is sometimes to help others to decide upon unity.

What can I do to make Friends a great church?

4. Dedicate yourself to God's truth.

Ephesians 4:4-7 "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 overall and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it."

Paul makes the switch here – "one... one... one," getting louder and louder. Then loudest of all

"But to **each one** of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it." Eph. 4:7 (NIV)

"WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,
HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,
AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

(Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) Eph 4:8-11

These verses are filled with references to different truths:

- An Old Testament verse that shows Jesus' plan to give spiritual gifts to the church
 - A reference to Jesus' superiority to the Ephesian goddess Diana – who was said to have descended from heaven at the very spot of the temple. Jesus not only descended... He ascended!
 - One of the few references in the Bible to Jesus descending into hell. (lower, earthly regions)
- Remember: the point of these verses is not to get us talking about Diana and the lower regions. The point is: Jesus has used an awesome display of His mighty power to give each one of us His gifts!

What can I do to make Friends a great church?

5. Delight in the truth that God has gifted you.

Don't deny it. God has gifted you. If you're a believer accept it by faith. Just as much as the Bible says He's saved you, as much as the Bible says He's going to take you to heaven, the Bible says He's gifted you and He has a place of service for you in His church.

What can I do to make Friends a great church?

6. Depend on God Given leaders who can help you to develop your God given gifts.

*"It was He who gave some to be **apostles**, some to be **prophets**, some to be **evangelists**, and some to be **pastors and teachers**."* Eph. 4:11 (NIV)

- These gifts that God has given us are powerful things. It takes somebody standing beside you saying, "Have you thought about this... Here's an idea..."
- You'll see someone else using a gift and you'll think, "That's the gift that I want!" It may not be the gift that you have but you're sort of impressed with that gift.
- Gifts enable us for service but people equip us for service.
- S.H.A.P.E.

S

S- SPIRITUAL GIFTS

H- HEART

A- ABILITIES

P- PERSONALITY

E- EXPERIENCE

The Friends Community Church Membership Covenant:

1. I will protect the unity of my church
 - ... By acting in love toward other members
 - ... By refusing to gossip
 - ... By following the leaders
2. I will share the responsibility of my church
 - ... By praying for its growth
 - ... By inviting the unchurched to attend
 - ... By warmly welcoming those who visit
3. I will serve the ministry of my church
 - ... By discovering my gifts and talents
 - ... By being equipped to serve by my pastors
 - ... By developing a servant's heart.
4. I will support the testimony of my church
 - ... By attending faithfully
 - ... By living a godly life
 - ... By giving regularly