

## Love and Unity among Believers

*Why does God command us to:*

*love one another*

*Forgive one another*

*Get along with one another*

*We are warned not to be a stumbling block to others.*

*Matthew 18:6*

*But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*

*Offend – (It's more than you hurt my feelings)  
to cause to fall away from truth or authority*

*The Corinthians were divided over human leaders, and some of the members were even suing each other (1 Cor. 1:10–13; 6:1–8).*

*The Galatian saints were “biting and devouring” one another (Gal. 5:15),*

*The saints in Ephesus and Colosse had to be reminded of the importance of Christian unity (Eph. 4:1–3; Col.2:1–2).*

*In the church at Philippi, two women were at odds with each other and, as a result, were splitting the church (Phil. 4:1–3).*

*No wonder the psalmist wrote,*

*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” (Ps. 133:1).*

*Galatians 6:10*

*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

*The believers in Rome were divided over special diets and special days.*

*Some of the members thought it was a sin to eat meat, so they ate only vegetables.*

*Other members thought it a sin not to observe the Jewish holy days.*

*If each Christian had kept his convictions to himself, there would have been no problem, but they began to criticize and judge one another.*

*The one group was sure the other group was not at all spiritual.*

*Romans 14:1-12*

*Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.*

*AMP - As for the one whose faith is weak, accept him [into your fellowship], **but not for** [the purpose of] **quarreling over his opinions.***

<sup>2</sup> For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

<sup>3</sup> Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: **for God hath received him.**

<sup>4</sup> **Who art thou that judgest another man's servant?**

*Now we made not have servants but how about this...  
We have no problem judging someone else's child...*

*We see a child pitch a fit and we say "what a brat", "That's a problem child"*

*You don't know the heart of that child... You don't live everyday with them... Maybe they are just having a bad day.*

*You can not make a good assessment of a person or group of people based on one incident.*

*The Falcon's on the other hand have proven repeatedly that they don't have what it takes to get a super bowl ring.*

to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: **for God is able to make him stand.**

*A parent will continue to believe in a child because they first love them unconditionally and they see the potential of the child.*

*God loves us unconditionally and see our heart and knows how to transform us into what he wants us to be.*

*That why we a told to pray for one another... Go to the Lord on there behalf.*

<sup>5</sup> One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. **Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.**

*It is not a moral issue... God has not defined it in either way.*

*If God has defined it as sin then it is sin. Don't let you conscience become dull to the law of God.*

<sup>6</sup> He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

<sup>7</sup> For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

*We don't do what we do for our benefit... We do what we do to please God.*

<sup>8</sup> For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, **we are the Lord's.**

*High Priest miter – "Holiness to the Lord"*

*It was to daily remind him of his responsibility to the Lord not himself or others.*

**<sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.**

*Christ died for them as he did you... that He would be your Lord and you his servant.*

*John 21:15-25*

*Jesus had restored Peter to his place as an apostle, and once again He told him, "Follow me."*

*Peter began to follow Christ, but then he heard someone walking behind him. It was the apostle John.*

*Then Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, what shall this man do?"*

*Notice the Lord's reply: "What is that to thee?"*

*In other words, "Peter, you make sure you have made Me Lord of your life. Let Me worry about John."*

**<sup>10</sup> But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**

*God is the ultimate judge we all with stand before Him.*

**<sup>11</sup> For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.**

**<sup>12</sup> So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

*If you would worry about yourself as much as you worry about others... There would far less divisions in the body.*

Reasons to love, forgive, and receive one another, because:

God Receives us

God can hold us up

God is sovereign over us

God is the only one who has the right to judge

To fully understand this is Spiritual maturity

***You do not display spiritual maturity by how well you judge others... But by the way you love, forgive, and receive, encourage one another.***

*Galatians 6:1 AMP*

*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any sin, you who are spiritual [that is, you who are responsive to the guidance of the Spirit] are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness [not with a sense of superiority or self-righteousness], keeping a watchful eye on yourself, so that you are not tempted as well.*

***Jesus gave us liberty, so our focus is more on worshipping God rather trying to live the law.***

*Women scared God would come back and she would not have clothes on... And look down on someone that believes differently than she does.*