# HOW TO HAVE UNITY IN YOUR MARRIAGE

INTRODUCTION:

Nothing in life works without unity.
[Example: machinery, relationships (work, sports, church, etc.)]

The blessings of unity: Psalm 133:1ff

The need for unity: John 17:21, 22

Satan fights unity; works to disrupt it.

What is unity? A oneness.

**I. HUSBAND AND WIFE MUST BE ONE IN RELATIONSHIP (Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:28-31)**

(A Oneness of "being" . . . which comes through the bond of marriage)

*Sharing a common _____

A. A Lawful Oneness (Heb. 13:4)

B. An Indivisible Oneness (Mt. 19:5-6)

C. An Expressive Oneness (I Cor. 7:3-5)

**II. HUSBAND AND WIFE MUST BE ONE IN AGREEMENT (Amos 3:3; I Cor. 1:10)**

(A Oneness of "thinking" . . . which comes from the Bible)

*Sharing common _____

Agreement not necessarily in the insignificant details of life but in:

A. Your God-given Priorities in Life

1. Agreement in doctrine (The Word of God)

2. Agreement in practice (The will of God - Phil. 3:16)

B. Your God-given Responsibilities in Life
Examples:

1. Roles in marriage
2. Child-rearing (discipline/training)
3. Family finances
4. Service for Christ

## III. HUSBAND AND WIFE MUST BE ONE IN PURPOSE (Phil. 1:27)

(A oneness of "DOING" . . . which is focused on Christ)

*Sharing a common _____

Unity is:

A. Playing on the same _____

B. Heading in the same _____

C. Serving the same _____

CONCLUSION:

*Attitudes to promote unity:

1. _____ (Acts 4:32)

2. _____ (Phil. 2:2ff)
(Pride divides people)

3. Compassion and love (I Pet. 3:8)

4. _____ (Eph. 4:3)

*Activities that promote unity:

Unity will come as you -

1. Spend _____ together (in Christ-honoring activity)
(Contact)

2. _____ together (with meaningful, constructive conversation)

3. _____ together (A common cause)

"The single most common factor in creating strong family bonding is shared struggle"
(Gary Smalley)

"A team that sweats together, gets together"

"A family that prays together, stays together."

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Satan fights unity; works to disrupt it.

What is unity? A oneness.

Unity is a oneness (Greek - from "hen"; the neuter is "heis" meaning "one" - Eph. 4:3, 13)

In order for unity to exist in a marriage, you need to be one with your spouse in three areas:

**I. HUSBAND AND WIFE MUST BE ONE IN RELATIONSHIP (Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:28-31)**

(A Oneness of "being" . . . which comes through the bond of marriage)

*Sharing a common commitment

A. A Lawful Oneness (Heb. 13:4)

You must be married.

Living together shows non-commitment (It is not love).

B. An Indivisible Oneness (Mt. 19:5-6)

You must be convinced that divorce is not option.

Marriage is for keeps. This is why it is called "wedlock."

C. An Expressive Oneness (I Cor. 7:3-5)

Man was created by God to be expressive.

Unity is expressed in these ways:

--Handshakes - business relationships
--Putting arm around shoulder - friendship
--Hugs and kisses - family relationship
--Sex - Marriage relationship

Sex is an expression of the oneness you have by virtue of your marriage relationship.

Fornication and adultery are lies. Why? Because they are expressing a oneness that does not exist.

## II. HUSBAND AND WIFE MUST BE ONE IN AGREEMENT (Amos 3:3; I Cor. 1:10)

(A Oneness of "thinking" . . . which comes from the Bible)

*Sharing common convictions

A Bible conviction is a belief that you would be willing to die for.

A conviction is a belief that alters your behavior.

Since thinking affects actions, and actions affect relationships (and unity), it is important that we think alike.

Agreement not necessarily in the insignificant details of life but in:

A. Your God-given Priorities in Life

1. Agreement in doctrine (The Word of God)

2. Agreement in practice (The will of God - Phil. 3:16)

B. Your God-given Responsibilities in Life
Examples:

1. Roles in marriage

2. Child-rearing (discipline/training)

3. Family finances

4. Service for Christ

Beware: It's usually little, insignificant things that cause disunity.

**III. HUSBAND AND WIFE MUST BE ONE IN PURPOSE (Phil. 1:27)**

(A oneness of "DOING" . . . which is focused on Christ)

"United we stand, divided we fall."

*Sharing a common cause

Disunity is so destructive because rather than working together you are working against each other.

Unity is:

A. Playing on the same team

Working with each other not against each other.

B. Heading in the same direction

C. Serving the same Master

CONCLUSION:

*Attitudes to promote unity:

1. Unselfishness (Acts 4:32)

2. Humility (Phil. 2:2ff)
(Pride divides people)

3. Compassion and love (I Pet. 3:8)

4. Peace (Eph. 4:3)

*Activities that promote unity:

Unity will come as you -

1. Spend time together (in Christ-honoring activity)

(Contact)

2. Talk together (with meaningful, constructive conversation)

3. Toil together (A common cause)

"The single most common factor in creating strong family bonding is shared struggle" (Gary Smalley)

"A team that sweats together, gets together"

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