

**UNITY IN HIS CHURCH IS A BLESSING FROM GOD,  
NEEDED TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL – Jn 17:21,23**

The Lighthouse -- Kaitaia – 9/3/08 – ekb

**God is One** *Deut 6:4* The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. *2Cor 13:14*

**There are Persons and order in God with perfect oneness.** *Eph 4:4-6.* The Spirit, the Lord and the Father are in perfect unity.

As we **mature in God** together, our **oneness increases.** *1Jn 1:7, Gal 5:16, Rom 8:14.*  
[Sin divides us, *1Cor 3:1-3.* God unites us, *2Cor 1:21, Eph 4:3, Mal 2:14,15, Mat 19:6, 1Cor 12:13, Gal 3:27,28*] God tells us to be quick to maintain the unity of the Spirit which He has given us. *Eph 4:3.*

**We need oneness in marriage, family and church** and with our neighbours.

**Oneness is power,** strength, authority and effectiveness to achieve the desired goal, such as reaching the lost with the Gospel. **IT IS A TEAM. An army has to be in unity** to defeat the enemy and take the land.

Jesus has given to us six **basic commands to restore and maintain unity. The Holy Spirit enables what Jesus commands.** *Phil 2:13.*

*Mat 7:1,2*      **Release others** from your condemning judgment. *Rom 14:4,10,13.* (or reap the same). Evaluative judgment is important and good. *1Thes 5:21, Ac 17:11, 1Jn 4:1, 1Cor 10:15.*

*Mk 11:25,26,*      **Forgive others** their sins against you and **be forgiven by God.** *Lk 17:3, Mat 18:21–35.* If our sins are not forgiven then our unforgiven sins cut us off from God's mercy and grace. *Is 59:1,2.*

*Lk 6:27-42*      **Pray and bless** those who hurt you. (eg. Use *Col 1:9,10, Ac 26:18*) It is taking a place of authority in God, over the situation, so that you are not under it. Refuse all bitterness.

*Jn 13:4-17*      **Choose to be a servant** to others out of a secure identity in Christ, **by the leading of the Holy Spirit.** *Mat 20:20 - 28, Phil 2:5-8, Jn 13:34,35, Gal 5:13, Lk 22:27. Be like Jesus.*

*Mat 5:23,24*      **Go and apologise** when you hurt another.

*Mat 18:15*      **Go to your brother** and try to sort out the problem when he sins against you.

**If these steps are obeyed,** then in most cases unity will be maintained.  
[In extreme cases you may need a mediator. *Phil 4:3.* In very extreme cases you may need a judge. *1Cor 6:5, 1-8*]

**The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to humble ourselves, to serve others, by doing these things.**  
*Phil 2:13, Gal 5:13.*

**God gives the Kingdom and Rule of God** to the humble. *Jn 13:4-17.* Humility is taking a place of a servant to others out of a secure identity in Christ by the leading of the Holy Spirit. *Mat 20:20-28, Lk 22:27.*  
*Mat 18:3,4, Lk 18:9-14, Phil 2:5-11, Is 66:1,2, Mat 5:3, Is 57:15.*

**Let's get rid of pride** which is critical, judging, despising others, lifting self up, putting others down, unforgiving, self righteous, mocking, ridiculing, hating. *Pro 6:16-19, Pro 8:13, Jer 13:15-17, 2Tim 3:2.*