

How to Maintain Congregational Harmony

1 Cor. 1:10

Introduction:

- A. God wants all members of one body to work together in peace (1 Thess. 5:13; 1 Cor. 1:10; 3:3; 11:18; 12:25)
- B. 1 Corinthians shows **actions** contributing to that peace.

Discussion:

I. Watch Your Words. (v. 15,16,21).

- A. Carefully select our words. (Col. 4:6).
 - 1. Avoid false and divisive doctrine. (Rom. 16:17,18; 2 Pet. 2:1-2).
 - 2. Avoid foolish disputes. (Tit. 3:9; 1 Tim. 6:4).
- B. Carefully guard secrets.
 - 1. Do not prematurely publicize private sins. (Matt. 18:15-17).
 - 2. Do not repeat private transgressions. (Prov. 17:9).
 - a. Not necessary publicize **most** transgressions you may know.
 - b. May become necessary to publicize **some** for good of church. (cf. 3 Jno. 9; 1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 4:10,14,15)

II. Show Mutual Respect. (v. 21, 25, 26)

- A. Some act like body is one member — them. — Stirs resentment and strife.
- B. Some act like body exists to serve them. — Jump to their tune or face trouble.

III. Practice Mature Thinking. (1 Cor. 2:4,5; 3:3-4).

- A. Many converted to the gospel preacher more than to the gospel preached.
- B. Many take a partisan approach.
- C. Many take an adversarial approach.

IV. Accept Necessary Differences. (vv. 17,18; 28-29; Rom. 12:4).

- A. Some members try to be preachers and teachers - without ability or knowledge. (cf. Jas. 3:1)
- B. Some preachers and teachers try to be elders - without qualification or appointment.
- C. Some elders try to be lords. (1 Pet. 5:2,3).
- D. Some women try to be men. (1 Tim. 2:11-15).

V. Demonstrate True Love. (1 Cor 13:4-7).

Conclusion:

- A. Are we in harmony with each other?
- B. More importantly, are we in harmony with God?