

THE QUEENS MINISTRY BIBLE BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

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Tools for Practical Living

'N-HARMONY!

“With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”
Ephesians 4: 2-3

“The Spirit’s most difficult work in the church is to promote harmony among its members. The art of “keep(ing) the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace,” in Ephesians 4:3, requires believers who are characterized by humility, persistence, and a passion for the body of Christ. We give God honor when we pursue harmony.”*

(*from the article – “The Art of Getting Along: Living the Life God Intends” Jill Briscoe)

_____, and _____,

_____, and _____

Harmony In the Local Congregation:

Unity or **harmony** does not just happen, **it must be worked at!**

*“Sadly, other human beings are our biggest obstacles when it comes to practicing the spiritual art of harmony. Sometimes it seems as though the church would be a great place if we could get rid of the people! But how do we do church with people?”**

What is Harmony?

- the combination of different musical notes played or sung at the same time to produce a pleasing sound
- a pleasing combination or arrangement of different things
- agreement or concord.
- Synonyms: peace, amity, fellowship, cooperation, understanding, consensus, sympathy, rapport, like-mindedness

When things are **in harmony** or when one thing is **in harmony with** something else, they go together well or they agree with each other very well

When people are **in harmony** or **in harmony with** each other, they live together in a peaceful and friendly way.

How do we promote Harmony in the local congregation?

Another definition for Harmony is _____ *peaceful, peace* _____

Think about it: Which is harder, being a peacemaker or a peacekeeper? What is the difference between a peacemaker and peacekeeper?

Peacemaker – one willing to resolve both outer/inner turmoil to set peace with others or themselves

Peacekeeper – one that maintains the peace to help avoid conflict

1) What does the Bible say is the result of being a peacemaker: (Matt 5:9)

_____ **to be called the sons / daughters; children of GOD** _____

2) Romans 12:18 – says “if it possible”, we should:

_____ **live peaceably with all - everyone** _____

3) 2 Cor. 13:11 – In his closing words to the Corinthian church Paul shares a list of qualities that are helpful for the church then and now: list the items

a) _____ **be joyful; rejoice, be cheerful** _____

b) _____ **grow to maturity; strive for full restoration; be what you should be** _____

c) _____ **encourage each other; keep your spirits up** _____

d) _____ **live in harmony/peace; be of one mind; be agreeable** _____

(enjoy the spiritual well-being experienced by believers who walk closely with GOD – MSG bible)

4) Sowing seeds of sowing seeds of discord _____ Proverbs 6:16-19

(one of the qualities GOD hates and it goes against harmony in relationships/church -others include proud look, lying tongue, murder of innocent, plotting evil, joining in evilness, false witness & seeds of discord)

5) In the book of James – we are reminded of controlling what – to help keep the peace? _____ **Controlling our tongues _____ James 3:8-9**

Living in Harmony with one another: (ways the Bible teaches that we can walk in harmony with one another)

Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Amos 3:3

R _____ **respecting** _____ 1 Pet. 2:17; 1 Thess. 5: 12-13

H _____ **honoring** _____ Rom. 12:10

S _____ **supporting** _____ Heb. 10:24; Ecc. 4:9; Prov. 25:11

P _____ **praying for each other** _____ James 5:16; 1 Tim. 2:1; Eph. 6:18

E _____ **encouraging or edifying** _____ 1 Thess. 5:11; Prov. 27:17

- F** _____ **friendly** _____ Prov. 27: 6, 9
- S** _____ **servicing and submitting to one another** _____ Phil. 2:3; Eph. 5: 21
- T** _____ **tolerant; treat others as you want to be treated** _____ Eph. 4:2; Matt. 7:1, 12
- M** _____ **mindful of your own business; not a busybody** _____ 1 Thess. 4:11; Luke 6:42; 1 Pet. 4:15; Gal. 6:4
- F** _____ **forgiving** _____ Eph. 4:30-32; Col. 3:13; Luke 6:37; Matt. 18:21-22
- L** _____ **loving, love for one another** _____ 1 John 3:18, 4:8; John 13: 34-35

Think about it - what word or phrase would you use to sum up being peace-able towards one another?

Part 2:

How do we promote Harmony in the Body of Christ?

Oneness in Christ

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all, and in you all.”

Ephesians 4:4-6

Paul, the writer of the text, teaches the church that there is **one body!**

Often differences among people can lead to division, but the church must work hard at closing the gap of differences to build harmony in the Body of Christ. Instead of concentrating on what divides us, we should remember and focus on what unites us.

Believers are One in:

- 1) _____ **Body** _____
- 2) _____ **Spirit** _____
- 3) _____ **Hope** _____
- 4) _____ **the Lord Jesus** _____
- 5) _____ **Faith** _____
- 6) _____ **Baptism** _____
- 7) _____ **GOD** _____

Our unity is experienced in

- 1) The fellowship of _____ **believers – the church body** _____
- 2) The one who activates this fellowship: ____ **The Holy Spirit** _____
- 3) That which we await _ **the hope of our calling, the glorious future; eternal life with GOD** _
- 4) The One to whom we are saved by _ **Jesus the Christ; the Saviour; to whom we all belong** _
- 5) Our _____ **belief and commitment and dedication to Him** _ to Christ
- 6) Our initiation into the church by _ **water baptism** – a sign or symbol of our new life in Christ
- 7) Our reconciliation and relationship to God _ **our Heavenly Father and Creator** _____, who keeps us through all eternity

* Paul tells of two ways to bring about this unity in the body:

- To cement all relationships in the one relationship all believers have with the Lord Jesus Christ
- to rely on the power of the one Spirit who lives in all believers to maintain unity

(find the words associated with living in Harmony with fellow believers – remember it takes work!)

AROUND
BODY
BOND
COMMITMENT
ENCOURAGE
FAITH
HARMONY
HOPE
JOY
LOVE
ONE
PATIENCE
PEACE
SAME
SPIRIT
SUPPORT
TEAM
TOGETHER
TOIL
TRUST
UNITY

Y	N	O	M	R	A	H	H
E	F	Y	T	D	J	O	Y
P	A	D	N	U	O	R	A
O	N	O	E	S	A	M	E
H	B	B	M	I	P	F	G
A	S	A	T	E	A	M	A
S	P	L	I	O	T	U	R
U	I	P	M	L	I	N	U
P	R	E	M	O	E	I	O
P	I	A	O	V	N	T	C
O	T	C	C	E	C	Y	N
R	T	E	O	N	E	S	E
T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R
T	R	U	S	T	Y	P	R
H	F	A	H	T	I	A	F

*new puzzle with missing words

(Remember- “All believers in Christ belong to one body, all are united under one head – Jesus Christ Himself, we all have gifts, abilities to use for God’s purpose, and glory; to contribute in service to the health and strength of the church.” bib comm)