



Faith Challenges

*Caring Strategies For Our
Spiritual Life*

Preserving Unity



LIFE is all about learning
to **LOVE**

Matthew 24:40 NIV

- 40) The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the **LEAST** of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Preserving Unity



LIFE is all about learning to **LOVE**

We learn **MOST** from the Relationships that **DON'T** come easily

2nd Corinthians 5:18 NIV

- 18) All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**

Preserving Unity



LIFE is all about learning to **LOVE**

We learn **MOST** from the Relationships that **DON'T** come easily

Relationships are worth **RESTORING**

Romans 15:5 NIV

- 18) May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus

Restoring Fellowship



I) PRAY BEFORE

Restoring Fellowship



- 1) Pray Before Meeting
- 2) **TAKE INITIATIVE**

Matthew 5:23-24 NIV

- 23) Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,
- 24) leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

Restoring Fellowship



- 1) Pray Before Meeting
- 2) Take the Initiative
- 3) **SYMPATHIZE**

Philippians 2:4 NIV

- 4) Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Focus on **FEELINGS**,
not **FACTS**

People don't care what you know, until they know that you care

Restoring Fellowship



- 1) Pray Before Meeting
- 2) Take the Initiative
- 3) Sympathize with Them
- 4) **CONFESS**

Matthew 7:5 NIV

- 5) You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

HOW you handle a conflict can cause a bigger hurt than the original problem

Restoring Fellowship



- 1) Pray Before Meeting
- 2) Take the Initiative
- 3) Sympathize with Them
- 4) Confess Your Part
- 5) **NOT PERSONAL**

Fix the **PROBLEM**,
not the **BLAME**

Proverbs 15:1 NIV

- 1) A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

HOW you say it, is as important as **WHAT** you say

Restoring Fellowship



- 1) Pray Before Meeting
- 2) Take the Initiative
- 3) Sympathize with Them
- 4) Confess Your Part
- 5) Don't Attack Them
- 6) **COOPERATE**

Restoring Fellowship



- 1) Pray Before Meeting
- 2) Take the Initiative
- 3) Sympathize with Them
- 4) Confess Your Part
- 5) Don't Attack Them
- 6) Cooperate if you can
- 7) **RECONCILE**

RECONCILIATION

Focuses on the Relationship.

RESOLUTION

Focuses on the Problem.

*You don't have to
resolve the **ISSUE**,
just the **RELATIONSHIP**.*

Preserving Unity



I) COMMONALITY

1st Corinthians 1:10 NIV

10) I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Preserving Unity



1) Focus on the Common

2) **BE REALISTIC**

Longing for the **IDEAL**, while criticizing the **REAL**, is evidence of **IMMATURITY**

Settling for the **REAL**, without striving for the **IDEAL**, is evidence of **COMPLACENCY**

MATURITY is living with the tension between the **TWO**

Preserving Unity



- 1) Focus on the Common
- 2) Realistic Expectations
- 3) **ENCOURAGING**

Romans 14:1 NIV

- 1) Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

Preserving Unity



- 1) Focus on the Common
- 2) Realistic Expectations
- 3) **ENCOURAGING**

Romans 14:4 NIV

- 4) Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Preserving Unity



- 1) Focus on the Common
- 2) Realistic Expectations
- 3) **ENCOURAGING**

Romans 14:10 NIV

- 10) You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

Preserving Unity



- 1) Focus on the Common
- 2) Realistic Expectations
- 3) **ENCOURAGING**

Romans 14:13 NIV

- 13) Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

Preserving Unity



- 1) Focus on the Common
- 2) Realistic Expectations
- 3) **ENCOURAGING**

Romans 14:19 NIV

- 19) Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Preserving Unity



- 1) Focus on the Common
- 2) Realistic Expectations
- 3) Choose to Encourage
- 4) **NO GOSSIPING**

Proverbs 26:20 NIV

- 20) Without wood a fire goes out; **WITHOUT GOSSIP** a quarrel dies down.

Preserving Unity



- 1) Focus on the Common
- 2) Realistic Expectations
- 3) Choose to Encourage
- 4) Don't Listen to Gossip
- 5) **MATTHEW 18**

Preserving Unity



Hebrews 13:17 NIV

- 1) Focus on the Common
 - 2) Realistic Expectations
 - 3) Choose to Encourage
 - 4) Don't Listen to Gossip
 - 5) Practice Matthew 18
 - 6) **LEADERSHIP**
- 17) Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Preserving Unity



- 1) Focus on the Common
- 2) Realistic Expectations
- 3) Choose to Encourage
- 4) Don't Listen to Gossip
- 5) Practice Matthew 18
- 6) **LEADERSHIP**

1st Thessalonians 5:12-13 NIV

- 12) Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.
- 13) Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

Faith Challenges



- Prayer
- Reading
- Fellowship
- Authenticity
- Mutuality
- Sympathy
- Mercy
- Honesty
- Humility
- Courtesy
- Confidentiality
- Frequency
- Pray Before
- Take Initiative
- Sympathize
- Confess
- Don't Attack
- Cooperate
- Reconciliation
- Commonality
- Be Realistic
- Encouraging
- No Gossip
- Matthew 18
- Leadership

Faith Challenges



LIFE is all about

Learning to **LOVE ONE ANOTHER**