

MY PART IN FULFILLING CHRIST'S VISION

The Awesome Power of Vision – Rick Warren
Parts 1-3

THE BIBLE: WHY UNITY IN CHRIST'S CHURCH IS SO IMPORTANT

1. My unity with other believers is the proof that I'm saved.
2. The Trinity is our model for unity.
3. Jesus' last prayer was that members of his church would live in unity.
4. God gives us his glory so we'll be united.
5. Our unity is our greatest witness to unbelievers.
6. Unity removes fear and creates boldness.
7. When a church is truly unified, everybody's needs are met.
8. Baptism and communion are visible signs of unity.
9. Focusing on our common purpose creates unity.
10. Unity begins when we realize we're incomplete without each other.
11. Jesus died to unite us, not divide us.
12. Jesus expects me to work hard at unifying Christians.

HOW CAN I BE AN AGENT OF UNITY IN MY CHURCH?

1. FOCUS ON _____

"Let us concentrate on the things which create harmony and the growth of our fellowship together." Romans 14:19 (PHILLIPS)

"There is only one Body and one Spirit, and we have been called to one hope. There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and only one God, who is the Father of us all, who is over all, is through all and is in all." Ephesians 4:4-6

"Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with . . . They have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently."

Romans 14:1 (The Message)

"Let there be real harmony so there are no divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, UNITED in thought and purpose." 1 Corinthians 1:10 (TLB)

2. REALIZE I MUST CONTINUALLY _____

"MAKE EVERY EFFORT to keep the unity of the Spirit. Bind yourselves together by living in peace with each other." Ephesians 4:3

• DON'T BRING _____ INTO THE CHURCH

"You're acting (in the church) the same way unbelievers act in the world! The proof of your immaturity is your arguing and quarreling and the divisions you've created. That proves you still belong to the world and are living by worldly values! When one of you says, 'I support Paul,' and another says, 'I support Apollos,' you're acting like unbelievers, not like Christ. Is Apollos important? No! Is Paul important? No!" 1 Corinthians 3:3-5

• DON'T GET SUCKED INTO _____

"Jesus said, 'My kingdom is NOT of this world. If it were, my servants would fight.'" John 18:36 (NIV)

"Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. The Lord's servant must never quarrel; instead, you must be kind to everyone, able to teach, and patient with everyone. You must be humble, gently teaching those who oppose the truth." 2 Timothy 2:23-25

"Don't tear apart the work of God over a rule about food." Romans 14:20 (NLT)

3. BE _____

"Nothing is perfect except your Words." Psalm 119:96 (TLB)

"Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)

"Most of all, let love guide your life, for THEN the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony." Colossians 3:14 (TLB)

"Love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything." 1 Peter 4:8 (The Message)

4. OFFER _____

"Let's use ALL our energy in getting along with each other. Help each other by using encouraging words; Don't drag others down by finding fault."

Romans 14:19-20 (The Message)

"A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is." Proverbs 16:21 (GNT)

"What right do you have to criticize someone else's servants? Only their Lord can decide if they are doing right." Romans 14:4 (CEV)

"Why do you criticize and judge your brother or sister in Christ? Why do you think you are better than they are? We'll all be judged one day, not by each other's standards, or even by our own, but by the judgment of God." Romans 14:10 (PHILLIPS)

"You've been called to live in freedom—not freedom to indulge your selfish nature, but freedom to serve each other in love. God's entire law is summed up in 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' But you keep biting and devouring each other and tearing each other apart, you will be destroyed by each other." Galatians 5:13-15

Next Step

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