

**BUILDING A STRONG & HEALTHY UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST**

“Always be humble, gentle and patient. Show your love by helping each other. And strive to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:2-3)

In May & June, we will again remember two historic days in Christianity that cannot be separated from Easter, namely: the commemoration of Christ's Ascension to Heaven (26 May) and Pentecost (June 5). These reminders need to be understood by every member of God's family, both historically and spiritually in all ages. The life of God's family or congregation that wants to live more firmly and fruitfully in these last days needs to really understand the master plan that has been set by the Lord Jesus Christ through the life of His church. In building a strong and healthy unity of the Body of Christ there needs to be: biblical teaching, dynamic ministries, and a clear vision to do the works and services that must be carried out by each member of His Body. As an example we can look at the life the early church (Acts 2:41-47). To be able to achieve this, there are things that need to be done and practiced in real life in our lives as His church which is led by the Holy Spirit. In the apostle Paul's exhortation to the church at Ephesus, he conveys what needs to be done by those who have been called according to their calling in the Lord. And according to Ephesians 4:2-3, each of us is called to always be humble, gentle, and patient. We are also called to show love by helping one another. And we are also called to try to maintain the unity of the Spirit by the bond of peace. All of this speaks of the vital connection between emotional health, relational depth, and spiritual maturity that can shed light on the problems that can sometimes arise in the life of His church. Since the beginning of this year we have been guided to become a stronger and fruitful congregation in the midst of difficult circumstances (Luke 6:47-48; John 15:8). We all need to strive for spiritual fullness and maturity in Christ, so that we are no longer spiritual children who are easily tossed around from every wind of teaching, by the deceitful play of men in their cunning, but can hold fast to righteousness in love we grow in all things toward Christ. And from God alone, the whole body that is willing to serve one another according to the level of work of each member will receive its growth and build itself up in love (Ephesians 4:14-16). There are many churches that are in trouble and difficult to reach, because they are filled with members who: do not know or are unsure of how to solve their problems biblically, like meaning unable to state and overcome their weaknesses; threatened by or intolerant of different points of view; eager to serve in the church, but blind to Biblical principles; and tend to withdraw from God's family life because of unresolved conflicts. Fundamentally, truth can truly liberate people – not just on the surface, but deep within. A strong and fruitful church or family of God is a church that has a true discipleship vision and self-assessment guidelines that can reveal the spiritual and emotional maturity of its members. The life of God's family or church needs to continue to be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (OT & NT Bible) with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:19-21). Happy commemoration day of His death and also happy Pentecost. Amen!

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