

Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16

Topic: Working In Unity For The Cause of Reaching The Lost

INTRODUCTION: No matter which _____ one is involved in, they all have the same common purpose and _____ - to reach lost people with the Gospel and then disciple them.

I. HOW TO FAIL IN CHURCH MINISTRY:

A. Personal Kingdoms:

1. When there is a low level of spirituality and a high level of _____, personal egos and selfish motives take precedence over unified _____ and purpose. 3 Jn. 1:8,9
2. As personal kingdoms are constructed by carnal individuals, battles arise between _____ and turf wars break out leading to _____ instead of cooperation among the body.
3. When people and ministries are fighting among themselves, there is no spirit of _____ and the move of the Spirit of God is stymied leading to ineffectiveness in accomplishing the _____. James 4:1,2

B. The Fruit of Carnality:

1. When the move of God is stifled by the _____ behaviors, leaders and workers begin the blame game, pointing the _____ at one another for the lack of success.
2. If by chance one ministry begins to get things _____ both spiritually and naturally through prayer and applying spiritual principles of sowing the seed and reaping the _____, other leaders and their ministry may _____ threatened and begin to find fault and criticize them.
3. When the fruit of carnality prevails in any ministry or _____, it leads to a lack of _____ between leaders and workers, thus harming growth and progress. I Cor. 1:11-13

II. CREATING THE ATMOSPHERE OF UNITED MINISTRY:

A. Openness For Input & Discussion:

1. A dictatorial style of leadership leaves no _____ for anyone's input, discussion or _____ except those of the leader himself but a spiritual and sensitive leader does just the opposite.
2. The spiritual leader and ministry will recognize the _____ of sharing the thoughts and input of the people of his/her _____ and will bring them together to be used for the mission. Pr. 11:14

B. Delegation of Responsibilities To Others:

1. In times past, the philosophy of leadership was such that the _____ would be the one to do all or most of the _____ by himself, thus limiting the scope of the ministry.
2. A wise leader will recognize that the work and _____ will grow more quickly and expand its influence if the workload is shared by the other people who are _____ of the team. 2 Tim. 2:2
3. Delegation of _____ and responsibilities to others is not so the leader can shirk his/her responsibilities, but rather so the _____ can be done more quickly and efficiently.
4. The leader creates an atmosphere of _____ and trust when others are given part of the work to accomplish the mission.
5. The delegation of responsibilities works best when accompanied by a _____ of accountability in which the people _____ back consistently on their progress. Acts 14:27

III. THE LANGUAGE OF UNITY:

A. Positive Words of Faith:

1. In spite of delays and setbacks in any _____ or ministry, the atmosphere of faith and positive speaking is the common language heard being _____ by leaders and workers.
2. Jesus taught that there is _____ in the words that we speak, for the good and for the worse, depending on which language we choose to _____ - positive or negative. Mk. 11:23

B. The Spirit of Unity:

1. People may have differences of cultures, nationalities and backgrounds, etc. but a _____ vision and mission causes them to desire and _____ the same thing. I Cor. 1:10
2. People may have differences of _____ on natural matters, but when it comes to spiritual matters everyone must catch the same burden and vision of reaching lost _____ and discipling them. Pr. 29:
18

C. Getting New People Involved:

1. As new souls are _____ into the kingdom of God and discipled, it is important to bring them to the point where they too will become aware of the _____ and mission of the work of God.
2. Some of the best soul winners are the more recently born again _____, as they still have many of their unsaved friends and contacts _____ to them. Jn. 1:43-45

CONCLUSION: An elder retired pastor who had a successful soul winning _____ during his tenure as leader of several congregations stated that necessary ingredients for revival and reaching the lost souls are prayer, fasting, evangelizing and _____.