

**BE A UNIFYING CHURCH  
MEMBER**

**“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”**

**John 13:34-35**

Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Colossians 3:14 (NASB)

■ **Unity is based on love.**

**For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.**

**Ephesians 1:15-16**

- **Unity is based on love.**
- **Gossip destroys unity.**

**Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. <sup>30</sup> They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. <sup>31</sup> They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy.**

**Romans 1:29-31**

Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. <sup>6</sup> The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

James 3:5-6

**For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.**

**1 Peter 3:10**

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.  
<sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

**Matthew 6:14-15**

- **Unity is based on love.**
- **Gossip destroys unity.**
- **Forgiveness is essential to unity.**

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

**Colossians 3:12-14**