

## Romans 12:16a

Harmony

*The undivided Christ ...*

### I. Assumes Connectedness

- A. Community
- B. In Unity

### II. Admits Contrast

- A. upRoot Division
- B. Respect Differences

### III. Affirms Cohesion

- A. Passion and Priority
- B. Peace and Purity
- C. Vigor and Vision

*... and a unified Church*

*Children, Listen ...*

1. Can you think of some ways the church is described in the Bible?
2. Why is it sometimes a challenge for people (even Christians) to work well together?
3. Do you think it is important to God that His people work well with each other? Why do you think that?
4. As you grow in the church will you ask the Lord to help you to see how you can serve Him well in it?
5. Who is the only King and Head of the church?

## A Corrective Lens for Congregational Vision

It is hard enough for two redeemed sinners to coexist harmoniously let alone a whole collection of them! But such is the church -a collection of flawed people who together profess Christ as Savior and seek to serve Him corporately. But that does not necessarily guarantee a local church will be a happy clan. Apparently the issue of unity in the body of Christ is important to God as the theme is repeated throughout Scripture. Jesus prays for it, the inspired writers address it from a number of angles - and every true saint longs for it. So what is it that causes division among the holy people of God? We rightly insist that division over issues of truth and errors regarding the faith are warranted and necessary for the preservation of the church. But it is often non-essentials that cause much of the conflict many churches experience. Individuals often suffer what could be called religious peripheralism – a super- keen focus on secondary, (tertiary etc., etc.) issues, personal preferences, prejudices or even petty offenses and insensitivities. Making such things the focal point effectively blurs the things that are actually supposed to be in the central gaze of congregational life in Christ. Thankfully we have the Word of God to guide us and the Holy Spirit to help us. May God continue to grant us the grace of harmony as we seek as individuals and as a church to glorify and enjoy Him with our hearts set on His Kingdom and our focus fixed on Jesus our King.

*Thy cause, not my own, engages my heart,  
And I appeal to Thee with greatest freedom to set up thy kingdom in every place  
where Satan reigns;  
Glorify thyself and I shall rejoice, for to bring honor to thy name is my soul  
desire.*

- From the Valley of Vision