

# Keeping Unity

Pastor Ross S. Russell, Church on the Beach, 5-2-20

Text: Acts 15

**1. Correct false teachers.** *1 Timothy 6:3-5, 2 Timothy 4:1-4*

Go to the source of the controversy to get it straight.

**2. Find out what the Bible says.** *Acts 17:11*

That's why we go through the Bible in our church. We want to know what the Bible teaches on such essential issues like salvation. I encourage you to search the Scriptures and see for yourself.

**3. Read verses in their proper context.** *2 Timothy 2:15*

Get the whole counsel of God to help you interpret a passage.

**4. Avoid idol worship.** *1 John 5:21*

Let nothing or nobody else sit on the throne of your life but God Himself.

**5. Flee sexual immorality.** *1 Corinthians 6:12-20*

Fornication is sexual immorality --any sex outside of marriage. God wants us to have pure marriages --a holy union. "In a sexual relationship the two bodies become one, and a new human being may emerge from the sexual union. Sexual relations outside the marriage bond are a gross perversion of the divinely established marriage union. There is a higher union than the marriage bond: the believer's spiritual union with Christ, which is the perfect model for the kind of unity that should mark the marriage relationship." --NASB Study Bible

**6. Don't stumble others with your freedom.** *1 Corinthians 8:4-13*

If your freedom allows you to do something that stumbles your weak brother, don't do it.

**7. Be willing to follow rules to promote unity.** *Psalms 133*

The apostles and church leaders decided on four rules to maintain unity. Different fellowships, gatherings, mission trips will have rules that aren't spelled out clearly in the Bible. Many of us may resist saying that they are being legalistic. If you are in a group by choice, follow these rules so you don't topple the apple cart. When we participate in these groups, it is important to go along with the flow to keep unity.

**8. Be led by the Holy Spirit.** *Psalms 32:8, Isaiah 30:21, Acts 8:29, 13:2; Romans 8:14*

We should always be Spirit-led as much as possible so that we aren't just following a good plan that man has devised. It is easier to keep the unity when everyone senses that it is what *God* wants you to do.