

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

During the 40-plus years I've been involved in ministry, regrettably, I've witnessed some of the most trivial, idiotic things we let divide us; everything from music, to style of dress, to approach to speaking, whether ethnic minorities should be included in church membership, to petty squabbles having more to do with ego than substance. It's pretty sad!

As you recall from Jesus' prayer before He was to be crucified, He cried out to the Father, “Oh Father, please, may My followers be one, as we are one.” The Apostle Paul underscored that perspective passionately in Ephesians chapter 4, verses 1 through 3. “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called; with all humility and gentleness, with patience showing forbearance to one another in love. Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.”

There are three principles that I want to quickly extract from these three verses. Principle number one; Unity is the product of a shared focus. He says in verse one to walk worthy of your calling. Secondly, unity is a product of a Christ-like attitude. He talks about the humility and the gentleness we ought to have in relationships, not a headstrong “I'll have *my* way” kind of perspective. Then thirdly, unity is intentional. We have to aggressively go after unity. We are one. We shouldn't be fighting.

I know that you have to take a stand when truth is at stake, but let's make sure that truth is really at stake, not just preferences.

Here's what I want you to remember today. Let me plead with you—let's not pick fights. When and if we have to take a stand, let's make sure it's a Biblical issue, not a matter of personal preference. God wants unity.