

‘Guidelines for a Happy and Effective Church Fellowship’ Eph. 4:1-6

We are very grateful to each of you who comes to this dear church. We also appreciate your willingness to serve the Lord with joy and enthusiasm. However, we must always remember that *‘unless the Lord builds the house, we labor in vain.’* Ps. 127:1 This is true whether it be the home, at work or in the church. Thus, we want to be guided by the principles and concepts found in the Bible. The following are a few helpful guidelines and Bible verses which we all can read often, with the great desire to increasingly put them into practice in our own lives. This makes then for a wonderful unity, joy and blessing.

1. The Christian should have a heart for God, with a real love for God and His word. Ps. 27:8
2. The believer should be characterized by his love for other Christians. 1 Pet. 4:8
3. A Christian should be willing to give preference to the other, regarding others as more important than himself. Phil. 2:3 Are you trying to ‘lift others up’ or to exalt yourself at somebody’s else’s expense?
4. The growing Christian should seek to encourage and to serve one another. 1 Thess. 5:11.
5. The Christian should be teachable, flexible in his ways, and wanting to grow in his understanding of Christian beliefs and practices. 2 Peter 3:18 One is never too old to learn new things.
6. Seek to believe the best of others, putting the best construction on what they say and do. 1 Cor. 13: 7 One good judge of someone’s character is to listen to what they say about others.
7. Christians should have a positive spirit and not be negative or critical. Phil 4:8 Victory day is coming soon. So we can rejoice in the Lord.
8. Especially when it comes to church work, a Christian should not be insistent on his own ways or ideas, but should be considerate of others and their ideas too. Rom. 14:17-19
9. Christians often fail, so we must constantly forgive. Eph. 4:31,32. Be kind, don’t jump on others, learn to forgive and hopefully they will also forgive you the next time you need it.
10. Every Christian is to be filled with God’s Holy Spirit, with no known sin unconfessed. Eph. 5:18 It takes more than our own strength to carry out all these great traits, it takes the grace of God.
11. Let each person be devoted to prayer. Col. 4:2
12. Each person can be devoted to helping fulfill the Great Commission in some way. Matt. 28:18-20.
13. Here is a very helpful principle: *‘In each situation let us be thankful for what we have, then we can move on from there.’* 1 Thess. 5:18 A great way to start dealing with anger or bitterness is to realize that we have a choice: either be angry by what we don’t have or be thankful for what we do have.
14. May we always remember that Jesus is the Head of the church, not any person or committee. Eph. 4:15,16 It’s His church. He died for His church. He’s in control, not us. This is why we need to pray.
15. May we smile often! Rejoice in the Lord always! We can commit our lives, our church to Him. We plan, work hard, keep pressing on, yet also then we relax, it’s His church. Great days are yet ahead!