How to Promote Congregational Harmony

1 Cor. 12:12-26

Introduction:

A. God wants all members of one body to work together in peace (v. 25)

B. This epistle suggest some important **contributions** to that peace.

Discussion:

II. Watch What We Say to and About Each Other. (v. 15,16,21).

A. Carefully select our words. (Col. 4:6).

1. Avoid false and divisive doctrine. (Rom. 16:17,18; 2 Pet. 2:1-2).
2. Avoid foolish disputes. (Tit. 3:9).

B. Carefully guard secrets.

1. Do not prematurely publicize private sins. (Matt. 18:15-17).
2. Do not repeat private transgressions. (Prov. 17:9).
   a. Not necessary publicize **most** transgressions you may know.
   b. May become necessary to publicize **some** for good of church. (cf. 3 Jno. 9; 1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 4:10,14,15)

III. Be Considerate of Each Other (v. 21, 25, 26)

A. Some act like body is one member — them. — Stirs resentment and strife.

B. Some act like body exists to serve them. — Jump to their tune or face trouble.

IV. Have A Mature Attitude Toward Teachers. (1 Cor. 2:4,5; 3:3-4).

A. Many converted to the gospel preacher more than to the gospel preached.

B. Many take a partisan approach.

C. Many take an adversarial approach.

V. Recognize That All Do Not Have The Same Function. (vv. 17,18; 28-29; Rom. 12:4).

A. Some members try to be preachers and teachers - without ability or knowledge. (cf. Jas. 3:1)

B. Some preachers and teachers try to be elders - without qualification or appointment.

C. Some elders try to be lords. (1 Pet. 5:2,3).

D. Some women try to be men. (1 Tim. 2:11-15).

Conclusion:

A. The more excellent way will promote peace. (v. 31)

B. The characteristics of love begets peace. (13:4-7)