

**Fighter**  
**#1: How To Fight For Unity**

**1. Understand the \_\_\_\_\_**

**John 17:11** *Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.*

**John 17:21** *...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.*

**John 17:22** *I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—*

a) Make the decision that \_\_\_\_\_

b) Distinguish between the \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 14:1** *Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong.*

c) Keep your \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 14:22** *So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.*

d) \_\_\_\_\_ those who are different

**Romans 14:3** *Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them.*

**2. \_\_\_\_\_**

Commitment #1: I will \_\_\_\_\_

**I Corinthians 13:7** *...love protects...*

a) Love \_\_\_\_\_

b) Love \_\_\_\_\_ about other people

Commitment #2: I will \_\_\_\_\_ with you when we're hurt

**Matthew 18:15-17** *If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense...*

Enter the \_\_\_\_\_

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Commitment #3: I will \_\_\_\_\_ in love to you  
**Galatians 6:1-2** *Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.*

Encourage those who are struggling

**Romans 12:18** *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

### Guidelines for Truth-Telling

**First**, identify the real obstacle. Take time to determine the real issue. Is it hurt feelings? Is it a history of dishonesty? Do you feel neglected? Misunderstood? Some find it helpful to organize their thoughts on paper.

**Second**, arrange to meet the person face-to-face as soon as possible. Jesus tells us that if we have a problem in a relationship we should meet with that person in private (Matt. 18:15). Paul says we should do it as soon as possible. (Eph 4:26). The longer we stay in pseudo community, the more the relationship deteriorates.

**Third**, *when you meet, affirm the relationship before you open the agenda.* "I care about you and I value our relationship. I want our marriage to be all it can be, and I believe it has the potential to be mutually satisfying in every way. But I need to talk to you about a few things that are standing in the way."

**Fourth**, *make observations rather than accusations.* Human beings tend to do what animals do when they're attacked: they strike back. Don't put up your dukes and start throwing punches. Say, "Look, I'm feeling hurt by some things that happened. I'm sure it was unintentional, but can we talk about it?" Or... "I'm sensing a change in our relationship. I don't feel as comfortable with you anymore. I'd like your input." That opens the way for dialogue that can lead to true community.

**Romans 12:16** *Live in harmony with one another.*

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