



CARIBBEAN BROTHER ASSEMBLIES CONFERENCE 2017
Cascadia Hotel, # 67, Ariapita Road, St. Ann's, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

FOSTERING UNITY

PERSPECTIVES ON UNITY:

A PRINCIPLE for all contexts - Home, City, Kingdom/Nation (Matt.12 v.25);

A KEY to unlocking the impossible – (Gen.11 v.6);

A PATH from futile and frustrated isolation to fruitful and fulfilling togetherness
Working, Walking, Warming and Warring (Eccl. 4 v. 7-12);

A PLATFORM for Divine Blessing (Ps. 133);

A PRAYER-FOCUS of our Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 17 v.11, 20-23)

- World impacted;
- TRI-UNE God reflected and re-presented through the Holy Spirit's Lordship;
- God's Glory and Grace manifested (cf. Jn.1 v. 14-18, Ex.33 v.12- Ex. 34 v.8)

NEGATIVE EXAMPLES / CASE STUDIES from Old Testament and New

ABSALOM: 11Sam. 15-18

Pursuing personal agenda, "I'm the answer"

Undermining God - ordained authority, "Stealing hearts"

"Masquerading in the Name of God"- Worshipping in Hebron

Mobilising resources...recruiting personnel (Ahithophel)

Running counter to David's prayers (11Sam.15 v.31) and God's purposes (11Sam.17 v.14)

Erected a monument to himself in the King's Valley (11Sam.18 v. 18)

Entrapped by his own trappings (mule and locks)



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DIOTREPHES:

111 Jn. V. 9-11

Passion for pre-eminence

Rejection of God-ordained leadership

Sowing discord (cf. Prov. 6 v. 12-19)

Abusing and misusing authority

MODEL IN OPERATION – Lessons from the Book of Acts

Acts 2 v. 41-47 “What is mine is God’s, I’ll share it.”

Acts 4 v.23-37 Suffering, praying, evangelising and sharing together.

Acts 6 v. 1-7 Facing reality, mobilising community, focusing on
priorities, delegating responsibility, respecting
diversity, and releasing Redemptive energy.

Acts 9 v. 10-31 Taking risk, embracing “family”, manifesting growth and
development as Church.

Acts 11 v. 19-30 Demonstrating a lifestyle, earning a “Label” – the church at
Antioch.

Acts 13 v. 1-4 Unity in diversity at Antioch, the launching - pad for world
evangelisation.



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PRESCRIPTION FOR SUCCESS

- a. Being like-minded..." Let Christ's mind be in you" (Phil.2 v.1-14)
- b. Being of the same mind in the Lord (Phil.4 v.1-2)

- Keeping the Unity of the Spirit towards quantitative and qualitative Church growth (Eph.4 v. 1-16)

Loris Heywood

July 2017