



SYMPHONIC HARMONY IN THE CHURCH

The *QUEST*ion of Corporate Harmony in the Church

IFCA Church Advance Seminar

Theme: On a Quest for Church Wellness

Topic: The **Question** of Corporate Harmony in the Church

Presenter: Dan Fredericks

Seminar Description

The Quest for Corporate Harmony in the Church will explore what Scripture has to say regarding the biblical exhortation for harmony in the Body of Christ and keys to achieving corporate fellowship, agreement and like-mindedness. As a general rule every believer and church leader is committed to sound doctrine and faithful Bible teaching in the ministry. On that issue there is wide agreement. Yet, even with such common commitment we can still find disharmony in the church. How is it that believers can share common convictions and affirming love for Christ Jesus, yet find it difficult to simply get along in harmony with one another? This paradoxical incongruity will be addressed in this seminar and helpful biblical disciplines explored and applied. This seminar will seek to show how we can turn conflicting grievances into complimentary grace, thus achieving harmony in the church.



INTRODUCTION

“I PLAYED IN THE BAND”

Pursue Peace with ALL...



The Symphony Conductor

The Lord Jesus – The Head of
the Church

1 Co. 11:3; Eph. 4:15; 5:23



Ah, the **concertmaster**. That confident violinist who strides across the stage after everyone else, lifts her bow, waits for an oboe to sound 'A' and tunes the orchestra. When the conductor strides out, the concertmaster is the only one who gets to shake the conductor's hand.



The Concert Master The First Chair Tuning Fork

The Holy Spirit – The Power of the Church – Acts 1:8

Anticipated: Mic. 3:8; Zech. 4:6; Lk. 1:17, 35; 4:14;

Present: Acts 1:8; 10:38; Rom. 1:4; 15:13, 19; 1 Co. 2:4; 5:4; Eph. 2:2; 3:16; 1 Thess. 1:5; 2 Tim. 1:7

Glorifies Jesus Christ – John 16:13-24

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

Ps. 31:5; Jn. 4:23f; 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; Rom. 9:1; Eph. 1:13; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Jn. 4:6; 5:6



The String Section

Characteristics

- ❖ Individually
- ❖ Complimentary
- ❖ Variety

The strings are the largest family of instruments in the orchestra and they come in four sizes: the violin, which is the smallest, viola, cello, and the biggest, the double bass, sometimes called the contrabass.



The Woodwind Section

Characteristics

- ❖ Individually
- ❖ Complimentary
- ❖ Variety

The modern orchestra's woodwind section typically includes: flutes, oboes, clarinets, and bassoons. The piccolo, cor anglais, bass clarinet, E-flat clarinet, and contrabassoon are commonly used supplementary woodwind instruments.



The Brass Section

Characteristics

- ❖ Individually
- ❖ Complimentary
- ❖ Variety

The brass family members that are most commonly used in the orchestra include the trumpet, French horn, trombone, and the tuba.



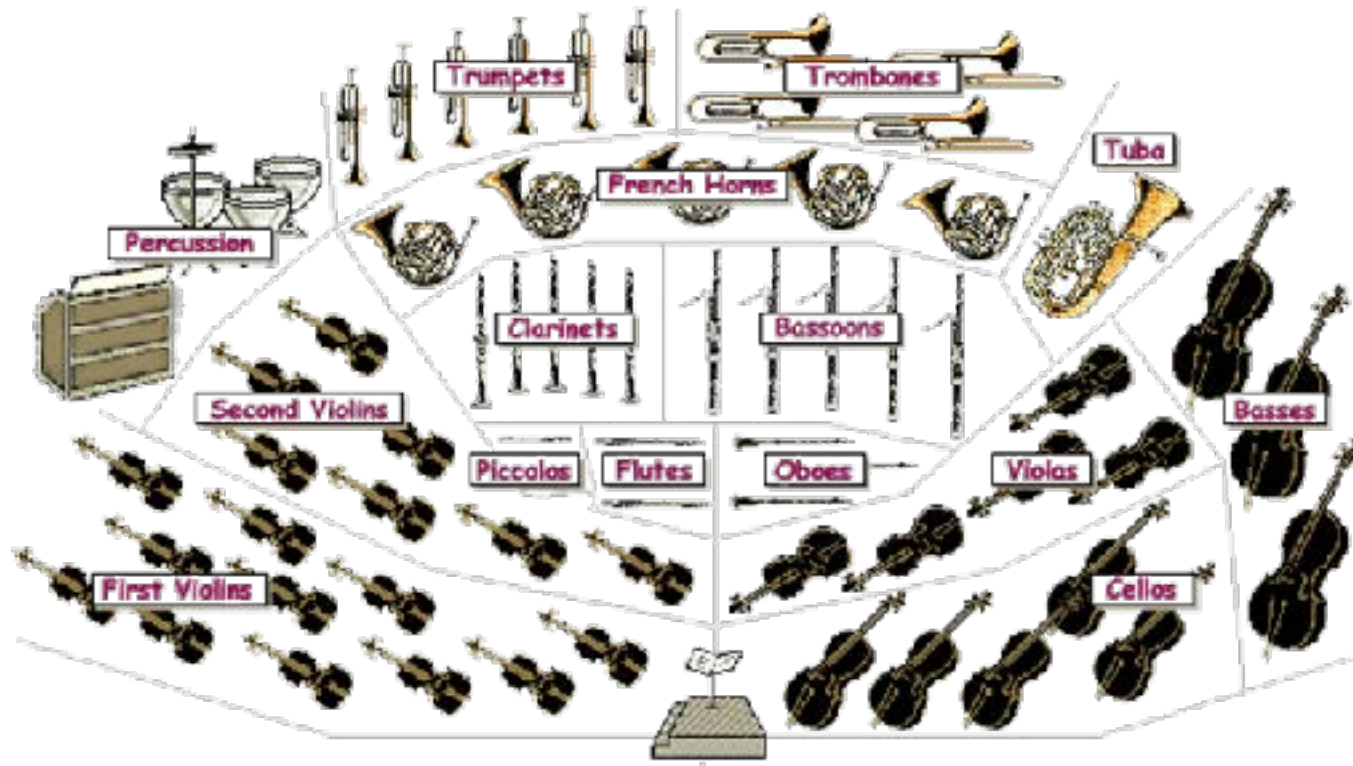
The Percussion Section

Characteristics

- ❖ Individually
- ❖ Complimentary
- ❖ Variety

The most common percussion instruments in the orchestra include the timpani, xylophone, cymbals, triangle, snare drum, bass drum, tambourine, maracas, gongs, chimes, celesta, and piano.

The Order of the Orchestra



The Arrangement of the Symphonic Instruments

Sovereignly placed by the Holy
Spirit for the glory of Jesus
Christ.

But now God has placed the
members, each one of them, in
the body, just as He desired.

(1 Cor. 12:18)

1 Corinthians 12:11, NIV: "All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them **to each one, just as he determines.**"

1 Corinthians 12:11, ESV: "All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions **to each one individually as he will.**"

1 Corinthians 12:11, KJV: "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing **to every man severally as he will.**"

1 Corinthians 12:11, NASB: "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing **to each one individually just as He will.**"

1 Corinthians 12:11, NLT: "It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. **He alone decides which gift each person should have.**"

1 Corinthians 12:11, CSB: "One and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to **each person as he will.**"

The Arrangement of the Symphony

Sovereignly placed by the Holy Spirit for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Acts 17:28

For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Acts 17:28

17:28 in him we live. The God of creation sustains the very life of every person, even those who don't believe He exists, so that "He [is] not far from every one of us" (Acts 17:27). Note also Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3; etc.

Colossians 1:17

... he is before all things, and by him all things...

Colossians 1:17: before all things - Study Note

... before all things. Note the frequent occurrence in Colossians 1:16-20 of the words "all things" and "by Him" (or "in Him"). By Him all things were created in the past, by Him all things consist in the...

"Times and Epochs" – Daniel 2:21; Acts 1:7; 1 Thess. 5:1

The Movements of the Symphony

Each part fulfilling their individual score with skill and in order of directed timing, tempo and dynamics.

Types of musical movements

Complete musical works contain several movements, with three or four movements being the most common number of movements in a classical piece.

...

Within the symphony there are four movements:

First Movement: Allegro con brio.

Second Movement: Andante con moto.

Third Movement: Scherzo. Allegro.

Fourth Movement: Allegro.

<https://www.liveabout.com/movement-definition-2701042>

We are called upon to be of “one accord” and of “one mind.” This was the characteristic of the early church, and ought to be the continuing norm of today. But, as we know, it didn’t last long in the early church.

"What does it mean to be in one accord?"

The concept of being in one accord is expressed frequently in the Bible, with ten instances in the book of Acts. For example, “All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers” (Acts 1:14, ESV). To be in one accord communicates being one in heart and mind.

More specifically, the words in the original language convey the inner unity (oneness of heart and mind) of a group of people engaged in a similar action. As such, the expression is sometimes rendered “with one mind,” as in Romans 15:6: “So that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with one mind and one voice” (CSB).

--GotQuestions.org

Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:5-6)

Symphonic One Accord

One Accord

Jos. 9:2; Acts 4:24; 5:12; 8:6; 12:20;
18:12; 19:29; Rom. 15:6

One Mind

Acts 1:14; 2:46; 15:25; Phil. 1:27

OT - Jos. 9:2; 1 Chr. 12:38 (Neg.
Psa. 83:5 Jer. 5:5

WHEN WE GET OUT OF HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER

Illustration: Clip of Barney Fife and the Choir - Barney and the Choir - "I'll move around and see if I can spot who it is."

Hymns that We Love

- Amazing Grace
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- But sung at the same time? Not so lovely!
 - Disharmony
 - Differing keys
 - Differing arrangements
 - Differing timing
 - Differing preferences

Most conflicts in life relationships, in the church and in the home, come from basic difference, not true doctrinal or moral errors.

Out of Harmony with One Another





Out of Harmony in the Church

"I'll move around and see if I can spot who it is."

AMAZING GRACE

GREAT IS THYFAITHFULNESS

Conflicted Out of Harmony

Hymns We Love

Hymns Out of Sync

Amazing Grace

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

All Together Now – My
Preference First!

- IFCA Biblical Conciliation Manual states the following:
- In a fallen world, conflict is inevitable and should be expected.
- James 4:1-3

- Misunderstandings = Acts 15, the Jerusalem council, conflict was circumcision, solution was a letter
- Differences = 1 Corinthians 12:15ff; the discussion of the body, foot tries to be hand, ear tries to be eye, etc.
- Competition = Genesis 13, the separation of Lot and Abram
- Sinful Attitudes = James 4:1-3 ~ desire for pleasure, lusting, etc.

Sources of Disharmony

James 4:1-3

BLESSED BEATITUDES – Holy Attitudes - Harmonious Disposition, Life Perspective – HUMILITY – Individual Spiritual Qualities

Matthew 5:1 When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

2 He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying,

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

makarios

Meaning: blessed, happy

Usage: blessed(1), blessed(46), fortunate(1), happier(1), happy(1).

The Beatitudes Section – Matthew 5:1-12

Blessed are the peacemakers...

Matthew 5:9

More than happiness, “blessed” is ‘an exclamation of the inner joy and peace that comes with being right with God.’ – Allen Ross

“...the divinely-bestowed well-being that belongs only to the faithful.” – John MacArthur

True faith, hope and future reward

BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- NAU Ephesians 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,
- 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,
- 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The Spiritual Gifts Section –
Ephesians 4:1-16
Fruit of the Spirit –
Galatians 5:22-26

NAU Philippians 2:1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

2 make my joy complete by being of the **same mind**, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard **one another** as more important than yourselves;

4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of **others**.

5 **Have this attitude** in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

<5426> frone,w **phroneo**

Meaning: to have understanding, to think

APPLICATION

NAU Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to **live in harmony** in the Lord.

<5426> frone,w **phroneo**

The Biblical Attitude

Section – Philippians 2/4

Humility of Holiness

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to *live in harmony* in the Lord. (Philippians 4:2)

phroneo

Meaning: to have understanding, to think

Usage: adopt...view(1), conceited*(1), concern(1), concerned(1), feel(1), have...attitude(3), intent on...purpose(1), live in harmony(1), mind(4), observes(2), set their minds(2), set your mind(1), setting your mind(2), think(3), views(1).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5426.htm>

Source of Harmonious Wisdom

13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

*The Wisdom from
Above Section –
James 3:13-18*

- Hebrews 13:1-17, speaks of Sincere Love (v.1) and Encouraging Joy (v.17), which should characterize our fellowship in the local church....
- The believer uniquely lives in three relational realms...the believer's relationship with other believers, the believer's relationship with others in the world, and the believer's relationship with "those who watch over their souls." These three relationships are, of course, predicated on the most important relationship...the relationship with the Lord, Himself.
- According to our text, there are at least nine (9) relational priorities that flow out of these three realms...

HOLY HARMONY IN THE
CHURCH
Section
Hebrews 13

RELATIONAL PRIORITIES

Hebrews 13 speaks to the body of believers to maintain certain **relational priorities**, including:

1. The Priority of Sincere [brotherly] Love towards all people (v.1)
2. The Priority of Hospitality [brotherly love for] of Strangers/Guests (v.2)
3. The Priority of Compassionate Concern for the maltreated (v.3)
4. The Priority of Moral Fidelity/Purity in Marriage and Family (all relationships) (v.4)
5. The Priority of Ethical Behavior with Contentment (v.5)
Confidence and trust in the Lord's provision and protection (v.6)
6. The Priority of Honoring God's Word and respecting (emulating) those who teach it (v.7)
7. The Priority of Christ-centered Worship (v.8-13) – the unchanging Christ/unchanging truth. Spiritual stability in an unstable, confusing religious world
Christ Jesus is our example for service and pattern for worship
8. The Priority of Sacrificial Service unto the Lord (v.14-16)
Only an eternal perspective – rather than an earthly focus – can bless a ministry
The church offers something better, far superior, than earthly cultural attractions
9. The Priority of Obedience to God's Word by submission to God- directed authorities (v.17)

Holy Harmony through Relational Priorities

Hebrews 13:1-17

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

- There are 59 “one another” statements in the New Testament. Exhortations in scripture to actually “do” something towards another person.
- Unity. One third of the one-another commands deal with the unity of the church.
- Love. One third of them instruct Christians to love one another.
- Humility. About 15% stress an attitude of humility and deference among believers.
- General Kindnesses, courtesy and holy affection

One Another Section

“One another” is two words in English, but it’s only one word in Greek: ἀλλήλων (*ah-LAY-loan*). It’s used 100 times in 94 New Testament verses. 47 of those verses give instructions to the church, and 60% of those instructions come from Paul.

○The research provides little evidence for the existence of natural talent. In every domain, from chess to sports, world-class performers have spent at least ten years dedicated to improving, chalking up 10,000 or more hours of practice.

○Some of the best research deals with musicians. In a famous study, researchers went into a violin academy in Germany. Their assumption was that if natural talent exists, they should be able to find top-performing students who didn't or hadn't practiced as much as the others. The researchers consulted experts to make judgements about the performance level of the violinists, putting them into three groups: the highest level solo performers, average-level solo performers, and music teachers mostly aspiring to become solo performers. The researchers found that the top group had practiced significantly more than the second group, which in turn had practiced more than the third group. The key was accumulated lifetime practice. The more practice, the better the performers.

○Source: Brian Martin, *The Practice Formula*, Published in Tutti (Journal of the Amateur Chamber Music Society), Volume 20, Number 1, August 2011, pp. 3-6, <https://www.bmartin.cc/pubs/11tutti.html> (Accessed June 10, 2020).

Putting It Into Practice

Practice, Practice, Practice!

But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. (1 Timothy 4:7, 8)

Etudes – Holy Habits of the Believer

Etudes are musical studies that help students learn the techniques of their instruments. In this lesson we will learn about some of the etude composers, and about piano etudes in particular.

Practice Makes Perfect!

It's 7:00 on a Tuesday night and all around the world boys and girls are sitting down to practice the piano. Some enjoy it and plunge right in. Others complain and need bribes of candy and stickers. Soon the universal cry rings out, 'Do I have to play my etude?~

- <https://study.com/academy/lesson/etude-definition-instruments.html>

What believers' practice - Phil. 4:9; 2 Pet. 1:10; It is the New Nature

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, **practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:8-9)

- Matt. 5:1-9; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 4:1-16; Col. 4:5-6; 2 Pet. 1:1-11

The Believers' Etudes

“Practice Makes Perfect”

The Believers Practice

What unbelievers practice -
Rom. 1:32; 2:1 ff; Gal. 5:21; It is
their nature.

What believers practice - Phil.
4:9; 2 Pet. 1:10;

It is the New Nature

Symphonic Harmony in the Church according to the book of
Philippians – every chapter exhorts and admonishes us.

1:27

2:1-5

3:1-3

4:1-9

Conclusion

Stand firm in the Lord

Resist and resolve personal disagreement

Keep your hearts and mind in prayer

Purify your thoughts with discipline

Practice the Word you profess to believe

**Symphonic Harmony in the
Church** according to the book
of Philippians

Conclusion and Application

Practice the Etudes of the
Christian Life.

The Holy Habits that lead to
Christlikeness!



The Symphony Conductor

The Lord Jesus – The Head of
the Church

1 Co. 11:3; Eph. 4:15; 5:23



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The *QUEST*ion of Corporate Harmony in the Church

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