

Agreeing with One Another in the Lord

I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.
Philippians 4:2

*I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that all of you agree together, and that there be no divisions among you,
but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*
1 Corinthians 1:10

The following are some biblical and practical strategies for pursuing agreement in the Lord when mutual decision-making results in an impasse. They are not necessarily in order of importance or in the order in which they ought to be pursued, with the exceptions of points 1 and 2. Point 13 is suggested for when all other attempts have been exhausted.

1. Pray for God's guidance together. Agreeing with one another in the Lord begins with agreeing with the Lord. So this and point #2 are vitally important.
 - Proverbs 3:5-6; Proverbs 16:3; Jeremiah 33:3; Matthew 6:9-10; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 John 5:14-15
2. Seek God's guidance together through a thorough and biblical study of how to discern God's will.
 - Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12
 - *Guidance: Knowing the Will of God* by Wayne Mack and Raymond Richards
 - The Christian's Guide to Guidance by Jay E. Adams
 - Found: God's Will by John MacArthur
3. "Give preference to one another in honor." (Yield to the wishes of another.)
 - Romans 12:10; Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3
4. Admit to one another that the position you have taken could be incorrect and that you are open to being corrected and having your mind changed.
 - Proverbs 18:13, 17
 - Proverbs 10:17; 15:12, 31-32; 17:10; 17:19; 26:12; 27:5-6; 28:26; 29:1
5. Listen carefully to each other's recommendations, then demonstrate that you have understood by faithfully articulating each other's point of view.
 - Proverbs 1:5; 12:15; 14:12; 16:2; 16:25; 18:1-2; 21:2
 - James 1:19-20
6. Take time together to make a careful list of possible outcomes/results of deciding one way or another.
 - Proverbs 13:16; 14:8; 14:15; 14:18; 22:3; 27:12

- Though you cannot know the future, you will benefit greatly by considering possible results of your decision-making options.
7. Agree together to delay the decision while you strive for like-mindedness.
 - Proverbs 14:8; 14:15; 19:2; 21:5; 29:20
 - Where circumstances may not allow for postponing, make use of other strategies.
 8. Undertake a research project together on the subject in question.
 - Proverbs 18:15; Proverbs 9:9
 - Read all you can on the topic; attend a seminar; take a course; consult experts.
 - This strategy may be useful in only certain kinds of decisions.
 9. Seek advice together from mutually trusted advisers who will give biblical counsel.
 - Proverbs 11:14; 12:15; 13:10; 15:22; 19:20; 19:27; 20:18; 23:12; 24:5-6
 - Agree ahead of time that you will give considerable weight to the counsel of the majority.
 10. Consider your individual spiritual gifts and unique capabilities.
 - Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Peter 4:8-11
 - Mutually evaluate if factoring in any particular expertise, competence, or experience either of you has to offer might warrant giving greater weight to that person's input.
 11. When the outcome of the decision may affect one party more than the other or more significantly than the other, agree to give greater weight to that party's concerns in making the decision together.
 - Philippians 2:3-4
 - 1 Corinthians 12:21-26
 12. A husband should place great value on the insight and input of a godly wife. A wife should be disposed to entrust herself to God's guidance through the godly headship of her husband.
 - Proverbs 12:4; 18:22; 19:14; Proverbs 31
 - Ephesians 5:22-24 & 33b; Colossians 3:18
 13. Agree together to trust God's sovereign direction by removing yourselves from the decision-making process and submitting the matter to an objective third party.
 - Proverbs 16:33; 18:18; Acts 1:23-26
 - Be sure that the expert you have chosen has all the information necessary to make an informed decision.
 - Do not reveal your individual points of view to the person you have consulted.
 - Agree ahead of time to abide by this objective counsel for a mutually agreed upon period of time.