

# New Year Resolutions

## *Protecting the Unity of the Church*

John 17:20-21

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### Introduction:

- Dictionary.com defines Resolved as ... *"A Formal expression or opinion made ... the act of resolving or determining upon an action or course of action."*
  - Greek - **Krino** ... English – Resolved ... *"To judge or decide between good and evil ... and choose the action of doing good."*
  - Dicionary.com defines Covenant as ... *"An agreement between two parties to do ... or ... not to do something specified."*
  - Greek ... **Diatheke** ... (Dee-Atha-Kay) ... English – Covenant ... *"A solemn agreement between God and man ... where the stronger sets the standards."*
  - Dictionary.com defines Mission as ... *"An important goal or purpose that is accompanied by strong conviction ... calling or vocation."*
  - Greek - **Diakonia** ... English – Mission ... *"Active service, done with a willing attitude ... empowered and guided by faith."*
  - **Matthew 28:18-20**
  - The Mission of South Fork is simple ... *"Changing our community, ONE heart at a time."*
  - The only way to change our community is to change ourselves.
  - We need to ask ourselves four questions:
    - Am I committed to do ALL I can to help the church accomplish its mission?
    - Have I been actively involved in the work here at South Fork?
    - When was the last time I invited someone to church?
    - Is my attendance at church serious to me or is it negotiable?
  - **John 14:15**
  - **John 17:20-21**
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### 1. Acting in Love towards one another:

- a. To Biblically love someone is to show respect, honor, and dignity because they have been created in the Image of God.
- b. **John 13:34-35**
- c. Greek - **Agapao** (Aga-pow) ... English – Love ... *"To love, to show appreciation and high regard for someone or something ... by choice of the will."*
- d. What we need to understand is this ... someone's inability to do what is right by God does not give us the right to disregard what God says.



**SOUTH FORK**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*Changing our community, one HEART at a time.*  
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## **2. Refuse to Gossip or be Divisive:**

- a. Dictionary.com defines Gossip as ... *“Idle talk or rumors ... especially about the personal or private matters of others.”*
- b. Greek - **Psithyristas** (*See-Turree-Stays*) ... English – Gossip ... *“Someone who Slanders secretly ... back-biter ... taleteller.”*
- c. **Morris Mandel** ... *“Gossip is the deadliest microbe. It has neither legs nor wings. It is composed entirely of tales, and most of them sting.”*
- d. What can we do to be part of the solution, and not the problem?
  - i. Don't be party to gossip or division:
  - ii. T.H.I.N.K. – (*Alan Redpath*) – **Ephesians 4:29**
    1. T – Is this True?
    2. H – Is this Helpful?
    3. I – Is this Inspiring?
    4. N – Is it Necessary?
    5. K – Is it Kind?

## **3. Study and Self Examination:**

- a. We are not always right, but the Bible is.
- b. **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15-16**
- c. What good is it if you can answer every question asked of you, but you cannot answer why you are a Christian?

## **4. Following the Leaders:**

- a. **Hebrews 13:17**
- b. A few examples:
  - i. Police Officer:
  - ii. Parent:
  - iii. Preachers/Elders/Deacons:
- c. **Hebrews 13:17**
- d. How can we protect the Unity here at South Fork?
  - i. Love one another Biblically:
  - ii. Do not gossip or be divisive:
  - iii. Study and examine your life through the Word of God:
  - iv. Follow the leaders that God has put in your life: