



Unity: The Joy of Oneness

Week of 5/30

Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *What spiritual discipline has God been using to speak to you this past week?*
- *What example comes to mind when you think of the word unity?*

Read Bible Study Summary:

In the new sermon series, “Building Blocks for Healthy Relationships,” we will discuss topics including: anger, attitude, authenticity, forgiveness, and speaking truth in love. Our focus will be to intentionally respond to the way God calls us to live in relationships with other people. The series will walk us through the last three chapters in Ephesians. We will begin to unpack chapter four of Ephesians and discuss the first topic which is unity.

Main Scripture

- *Ephesians 4:1-6 ESV*

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Building Block 1: Unity

1. Live A Worthy Life (Ephesians 4:1)

- Paul charged the Christians in Ephesus to live a life which matched the incredible calling of God. So, we must understand this calling, because it is inextricably linked to the life these Christians are called to live, and therefore connected to the life we are called to live.
 - *Ask Question(s) - What is the calling Paul is referring to here? How do you know?*
 - *Does an individual earn this calling? Does an individual sustain this calling? How do you know?*
 - *Share a time where your life exemplified the great calling of salvation you have received.*

- *Share a time where you wish you could go back and change the way you acted in order to fit the great calling of salvation.*
- *Who is a role model for you due to the way their life matches the calling of salvation?*
- *Who is the ultimate role model for this type of life?*
- **Read Scripture-** *For the first few questions concerning the calling, check out Ephesians 1-3. For the last question, check out Romans 8:28-29 OR 2 Corinthians 3:18.*

2. Maintain Unity (Ephesians 4:2-3)

- Paul clarified this worthy life by saying, “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Paul provided the specifics of this charge with some attributes to adopt and some descriptions to develop. First, he discussed the attributes to adopt to maintain unity. He noted the Christian must adopt the attributes of humility, gentleness, and patience. Second, Paul comes to the descriptions. Paul noted we must love one another even when it is difficult, and we must delight in maintaining unity.
 - **Ask Question(s)** - *When you look at the attributes to adopt, which attribute is most difficult for you? Why? How could you work with the Lord to grow in that attribute?*
 - *Describe an issue with another believer that is most difficult for you when trying to be loving to him/her. What promises of God could help you overcome this difficulty?*
 - *Describe what a church might look like if they do NOT display unity well?*
 - *Describe what a church might look like if they do display unity well?*
 - *At NorthShore Church, what is the greatest obstacle to unity? Has Christ destroyed this wall of hostility?*
 - *Who will you reach out to this week to experience unity with by discussing spiritual questions?*
 - *What might be some good questions to discuss?*
 - **Read Scripture-** *For questions about unity created in Christ, check out Ephesians 2:14-16.*

3. Know There Is One Body From One Lord (Ephesians 4:4-6)

- God is sovereign meaning he is the ultimate power or authority. In other words, God is God. Look with me at the end of verse six. Paul said, “[There is] one God and father, who is over all and through all and in all.” God is the decision maker of reality. He could choose however he wanted to set up how Christians relate to each other. God decided to create a reality in which there is unity in the body of Christ. Why? He did this because it is a witness to his character. It is a witness to the oneness of God in his three persons. God is one and we his followers shall be one.
 - **Ask Question(s)** - *Many scholars believe verses 4-6 were used as an ancient creed, or confession, in the Christian faith. How do these shared theological beliefs strengthen a group's unity?*
 - *Are there any pieces of the confession which you struggle to believe or understand?*
 - *Are there any beliefs that Christians can disagree about, yet remain united in Christ?*
 - *Are there any beliefs that Christians must agree?*
 - **Read Scripture-** *For Scripture about some examples of essential beliefs, check out Colossians 2:9 (the deity of Christ), 1 Peter 2:24-25 (the centrality of the cross), John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8 (the necessity of faith).*

Closing

- Make sure to set some type of reminder to get together with one or more believers to promote unity this week.
 - **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?*
- Pray together over those requests.