

This is who we are. Part 7—Christ Text: Ephesians 4:1-5

Warming Up

Questions:

1. *What is your favorite—and least favorite—part of camping?*
2. *What is something about your baptism that was particularly memorable? (If you have not been baptized, what question/thought/feelings surface for you when you think about baptism?)*

Digging In

Read **Luke 22:14-20**.

In Genesis 40, Joseph is falsely accused and thrown into prison with Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker. A cupbearer and baker are part of a king's inner circle to oversee the preparation of the food and drink, and to *taste* them to make sure they hadn't been poisoned. In other words, the role of the cupbearer and baker was to serve the king, and sacrifice their lives for the king if necessary.

Questions:

1. *In light of the role of a cupbearer and baker, what is so significant about Jesus being the one who serves the cup and the bread?*
2. *Why do you think Jesus commanded us to keep this communion feast as the body of Christ?*
3. *What would the church lose if it stopped receiving communion together?*

Read **Ephesians 4:1-5**.

The word for "Lord" here is one of the titles Paul gives to Jesus. After we are implored to be humble, gentle, patient, loving, and peacemaking, we are reminded that there is one *Lord*, one Jesus the Christ.

Question: *Why do you think Paul follows up the five virtues with a reminder that there is one Lord (Jesus)?*

"One Lord" is followed by "one faith". Sometimes we think of faith as what we drum up in ourselves. But in Ephesians, "one faith" primarily refers to *Jesus'* faith, or faithfulness.

Question: *What difference would it make if we saw our "oneness" as a result of Jesus' faithfulness and not ours?*

Finally, we are told that there is "one baptism". Baptism speaks to our decision to trust in the Person and faithfulness of Jesus. Our trust—or faith—is our *response* to Jesus' faithfulness.

Question: *Why do you think Paul felt the need to remind us that there is "one" baptism?*

Sending Out

Communion has been the historic way churches centered themselves on Christ and his faithfulness. Communion was a remembrance of what united them: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism". And so communion was the center of their worship every week. The centrality of communion in worship has been the practice of most Christians throughout the world and across the centuries.

Questions:

1. *What do you think unites us as a church here? What do you think divides us?*
2. *What do you think **should** unite us as a church? What do you think **should** divide us?*
3. *How might our unity be vulnerable if we made the sermon the center of our worship?*
4. *How might our unity be vulnerable if we made the music the center of our worship?*
5. *How might our unity be vulnerable if we made the Bible the center of our worship?*
6. *What difference might it make if we made communion the center of our worship?*

Closing

Take a moment in silence to come before God and ask the question, "What word or phrase or idea or moment does God want me to remember from this morning and carry with me this week?"

Close with prayer.