

DISCUSSION GUIDE
This Is Who We Are, Part 5
Unity of the Spirit In the Bond of Peace

Text: Ephesians 4:1-5

Warming Up

1. Name the circumstance and people where you felt a real sense of unity?
2. When was a time you experienced disunity. What caused the disunity?

Digging In

Read Ephesians 4:1-3 (Or better yet – recite it from memory!)

1. Pastor Craig noted that the verb mood Paul uses is not the imperative (a command) but is a present active participle. That means this is a continuation of verses 1 and 2. Does this change how you will work at unity?
2. Is perfect unity achievable? If it is, can we hold on to it. If it isn't, why not?

Read John 13:34-35

1. Pastor Craig noted that John records Jesus uses the subjunctive mood not the imperative even though this is a command. Subjunctive mood has to do with hope, dreams, and aspirations. Does this inspire you to love as you have been loved?
2. What does this say about love and unity?

Read Galatians 2:11-21

1. What tone of voice do you think Paul used in communicating to Peter? If you were Peter, how would you have received Paul's words? Were these making every effort at unity?
2. What is the result of this encounter? (You can peek at Acts 15:1-20)

Read Acts 15:36-41

1. Who is at fault for this split? Could it have been prevented? Is this making every effort?
2. What is the outcome? Was the mission of the church hurt or enlarged? Can God use our limitations for greater ends?

Read Ephesians 4:3

1. Pastor Craig noted that uniformity is not unity. Do you think this a work of the Spirit? Where do we fit in?
2. What might it mean to have unity of the Spirit in the midst of controversy, disagreement, and disassociation?
3. Reference Genesis 32:24-30. When we disagree, who are we wrestling with? When should we let go? Can we bless each other in the midst of our wrestling?
4. Do you like the quote offered? "Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God."

Sending Out

Jesus prayed in John 17:20b-21a that we would all be one. Can we join in that prayer, and with humility, gentleness, patience, and love continue to working to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace?

Closing

Remember, this is God's work among us!

Close in Prayer