



**The Week of January 17, 2021**  
**Unity in the Church**  
**Conversation Guide**

**This Week's Take-Aways**

- **About the Church:** (Ephesians 4:11-16) The church is a body of baptized believers who have been bought by the blood of Christ and are bound together by the Holy Spirit. The church is the body of Christ and exists to carry out His purposes on the earth.
- **I am engaged in the church:** (Acts 2:46-47) I consistently connect with my church body for fellowship and community while using my spiritual gifts for ministry and encouragement.

**Intro Questions**

- What defines church to you?
- How did Pastor David define church?
- Given the current disunity in the country, how should the church be countercultural?

**Division in the Church**

- Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-12

Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction. For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters, by members of Chloe's people, that there is rivalry among you. What I am saying is this: One of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."

- What are the three things that Paul says the Church should agree and be united on?
- In this passage, what is dividing the church into different camps?

- Read 1 Corinthians 11:21-22

For at the meal, each one eats his own supper. So one person is hungry while another gets drunk! Don't you have homes in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I do not praise you in this matter!

- Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-2

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and the kind of sexual immorality that is not even tolerated among the Gentiles — a man is sleeping with his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Shouldn't you be filled with grief and remove from your congregation the one who did this?

- Read 1 Corinthians 6:1

If any of you has a dispute against another, how dare you take it to court before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

- In these passages, what is causing division?

- What do you see dividing the Church today? No naming names! :-)

## What is Unity?

- Read Romans 12:3-5

For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.

- Why is it important that we aren't all the same?
- How is the way we view each other and work together in the church body build unity?
  - University=Diversity + Unity. Universities unite different colleges and fields of study together. The church should be the same!
  - From Pastor David's message: "Unity and diversity must work together or one will destroy the other. Unity without diversity is uniformity, but diversity without unity is anarchy. The church needs both unity and diversity if it is to function in this world."

- Read Romans 12:6-8

According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith; if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.

- Read Ephesians 4:1–6, 11-13

Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope at your calling—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all . . . And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness.

- Did you take the spiritual gift test last week? What gifts did you score high in?
  - Visit [icelebration.com/adult-groups](http://icelebration.com/adult-groups) for a link to a spiritual gifts test.
- Why is it important for unity for believer in the Body to know and use their spiritual gifts with the right attitude?
- What does this passage from Ephesians say about the goal of unity?

- Read John 17:20-23

“I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.

- Jesus chose to pray for unity for his disciples and for us. What does this tell you about the importance of unity?

- Read 1 Corinthians 3:3

because you are still worldly. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not worldly and behaving like mere humans?

- Read 1 Corinthians 4:6

Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying: “Nothing beyond what is written.” The purpose is that none of you will be arrogant, favoring one person over another.

- Why is it so much easier to be divided rather than unified?
- How does pride and selfishness destroy unity?

## Application

- Pastor David gave us some steps for maintaining unity.
  1. Do you remember what he meant when he said “Collaborate, don’t separate?” (Colossians 3:13)
    - F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
  2. What’s the biblical priority? (Matthew 6:33)
    - G \_ \_
- “We are on equal ground at the foot of the cross. The wealthiest, most successful, most intelligent person is on the exact same ground as the poorest, the least successful, the least intelligent person. We all find ourselves side-by-side, arm-in-arm at the foot of the cross. ‘Christ is not divided,’ Paul said, ‘so how can His body be divided?’ It’s not like some in the church are saints and others aren’t. He says, ‘You’re all saints called by God, forgiven by God, redeemed by God because of the cross of Christ.’”