

A Church That Pleases God—4

Choosing Unity in a Divided World

“My prayer is ...²¹that all of them may be one ... so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one ... ²³so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

John 17:20-23 NIV

A church that pleases God is a unified church.

There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him¹⁹ ... and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Proverbs 6:16, 19 NIV

One enemy.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:12 NIV

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy ...”

John 10:10 NIV

One mission.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...”

Matthew 28:19 NIV

One strategy.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35 NIV

TALK IT OVER

Read **John 13:34-35**. What does it practically look like to love like Jesus every day?

On a scale of 1-10, how difficult is it for you to find common ground with people who are different from you and why?

What are some practices you’ve tried to help you feel closer to people who are different from you? How have these practices impacted your faith and your life?

Start the Bible Plan *Reach the World, Care for the One* using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/reach