

Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 24, 2021

1 John 2:18-29 – Unity and Division

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- In what areas of your life have you experienced **DIVISION** with another person or people?
 - What created the **DIVISION**?
 - How did the **DIVISION** affect you... your emotions, confidence, sense of security, etc.?
- In what areas of your life have you experienced **UNITY** with another person or people?
 - What created the **UNITY**?
 - How did the **UNITY** affect you... your emotions, confidence, sense of security, etc.?
 - If the unity **ENDURED**, what caused that to happen?
 - If the unity **ENDED**, what caused that to happen?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking over your notes from this past teaching... was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

MAIN POINT

If we want to have fullness of joy and fellowship with God, we have to watch out for false teachers and false gospels... the deceptions of the enemy.

DIGGING INTO THE WORD

Read – 1 John 2:18-29

ANTICHRIST = ANOTHER CHRIST

- What is John warning us about?
- Since John's main goal in this letter is to help us have JOY, in what ways can false teaching take away our ability to experience JOY in our lives?
- In what ways have you encountered teachings that present ANOTHER type of CHRIST?

Pastor Nate shared with us these 4 categories for DOCTRINE (teaching)

1. Doctrines to **DIE** over: **ESSENTIAL** doctrines – **DIVISION NECESSARY**
i.e. Who God is. Who Jesus is. Who we are. How we are saved.
2. Doctrines to **DIVIDE** over: **URGENT** doctrines – **SEPARATION NECESSARY**
i.e. Baptism. Prosperity teaching.
3. Doctrines to **DEBATE** over: **IMPORTANT** doctrines – **DIVISION UNNECESSARY**
i.e. Drinking alcohol. Timing of the tribulation
4. Doctrines to **DECIDE** over: **NOT IMPORTANT** – **DIVISION UNNECESSARY**
i.e. Color of the carpet. Using colored lights during worship.

- What are the dangers of Christians **NOT DIVIDING** over the level 1 and 2 categories?
- What are the dangers of Christians **DIVIDING** over the level 3 and 4 categories?

Read – Ephesians 4:3 (Amplified Bible) - ***Make every effort to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the bond of peace.***

- Why do you think it takes EFFORT to... KEEP UNITY?

Read – Titus 3:9-11

- Do you find it **FREEING** or **CHALLENGING** to know that God wants you to "**AVOID FOOLISH DISPUTES**"?
- If unity is the goal, why would God's word tell us to "divide" with a person who causes division?

TAKING IT HOME

- What is an area of your life where you need to DIVIDE?
- What is an area of your life where you need to UNIFY?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS