

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the next three weeks, we will be talking about what it means to BE the church, not just ATTEND one. It is hard to be the church, if we are divided. There are always opportunities for us to disagree. But does disagreeing require us to be divided? Let's talk more about what that means.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Talk about a time you disagreed with someone, but you were still able to stay friends. The relationship didn't end because of the argument. Why do you think it didn't end?
2. Talk about a time when you disagreed with someone and the relationship was broken because of it. Looking back, was it necessary to divide because of that?
3. Read Ephesians 4:1-5
4. How can we approach disagreements or arguments with humility, gentleness, patience, and love? How does that look different than wanting to prove you are right?
5. Read Ephesians 4:11-13
6. How does humility, gentleness, patience, and love apply to Paul's instruction to build up the church until we reach unity?
7. Bonus Question: Can we live in unity with ALL people?

MOVING FORWARD

Remembering to approach people and arguments with humility, gentleness, patience, and love, may require us to change how we interact with our

family, friends, and coworkers. It might be a completely different way of living life. Having the goal of building others up, rather than proving we are right, might be something totally new for many of us. Being able to recognize that we may not be able to live in unity with EVERYone, might also be new. But it is important for the church to be in unity with one another, to be understanding that we are all in the process of being made more like Jesus, we should have the goal of being united around the person and the teachings of Jesus.