

UNITED WE STAND Part 1: The Great Divide

Objective: To challenge us to set aside our political preferences and focus on the mission of Jesus' church.

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:1-4

- American politics are very divisive currently. What is it about our politics that is so divisive?
- How would you describe your interactions with people from the “other side” of the political divide? Or, do you simply avoid the conversations because you feel its not worth the stress?
- Would you agree with the statement “we have divided the Body of Christ for the sake of our political views? Why or why not?
- If disunity always disrupts the mission of the church, then what should be our attitude towards anything that threatens to break the unity of the church that Jesus prayed for?
- In your mind, what does it look like to, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others?”

Consider this week:

- As our nation, and even our churches, are divided over social and political issues, are you willing to pray and ask God to disturb your peace over the lack of unity in the church?

Final Thought: Disunity always disrupts the mission of the church. What will you do to ensure you (and our church) stays on mission?

