

Be Different Part 1: Come Together

Objective: To challenge us to focus on Jesus and come together around him.

Read together:

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. 11 They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

I Peter 3:8-11

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.

Philippians 2:1-2

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:5-8

- How would you define the word 'unity'? What is the difference between unity and uniformity?
- From all appearances, our nation is 'coming apart'. We are more divided than we have been in a long time. What, in your opinion, is leading to all of this division?
- Jesus prayed for the church to be unified so that the world would know that He is real and that He loves them. How are we doing when it comes to unity in the church? Why do you think that?
- The pastor said that unity is not you agreeing with me or me agreeing with you. It is both of us agreeing with Jesus. Do you think that's an accurate description of unity? Why or why not?
- What are some practical ways you can get to know the 'mind of Christ?' How much time do you spend focusing on Jesus so that you can agree with him?
- Jesus always offered truth and grace. Jesus was willing to serve anyone in need. Jesus did all of this with humility. How well do today's Jesus followers do when it comes to acting like Jesus in these ways? How would it change the church and our community if we did this well?

Final Thought: When we focus on Jesus we will come together in unity. What do you need to do this week to ensure you are thinking and acting like Jesus?

