



Sermon Discussion Guide

“A Love That Unites”

Ephesians 4:1-6; Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Philippians 4:2-9

Summary

This week's sermon reminded us that in a broken, unstable, and divided world, the church should lament, stand firm on the Word, and pursue unity. Unity is God's work – planned by the Father, purchased by the Son, and preserved by the Spirit – and we are called to maintain it. We can do this by:

- **Bearing with one another** – patiently enduring quirks, annoyances, and differences with humility, gentleness, and patience.
- **Forgiving one another** – refusing to hold sins and offenses against each other, extending the same forgiveness we have received in Christ.
- **Agreeing with one another** – centering on Jesus above differences, practicing theological triage, and pursuing harmony in the Lord.

Our unity is not just for our sake; it is for our mission, so that the world may believe that Jesus is Lord.

Discussion Questions

- Where have you recently felt the brokenness and instability of the world most deeply? How did it affect you?

1. Bearing with One Another (Ephesians 4:1-3)

- Paul says we must be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit.” Why do you think unity requires effort?
- What are some quirks or differences that can tempt us to pull away from people in the church? How can humility, gentleness, and patience help us bear with one another?
- Which of the two practices from the sermon (getting to know someone, thinking the best of them Phil 4:8) could you put into action this week?

2. Forgiving One Another (Colossians 3:12-13)

- Why is forgiveness essential to unity?
- Which of the four promises of forgiveness (not dwelling, not bringing it up, not talking to others about it, not letting it stand between you) is hardest for you to keep?
- What would it look like for our group to become a community where confession and forgiveness are practiced regularly?

3. Agreeing with One Another (1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Phil 4:2)

- What is the difference between *unity* and *uniformity*?
- How does “theological triage” help us as we seek to agree in the Lord?
- Why is it important for the church to be centered on Christ rather than on preferences, personalities, or politics?

Closing

- What reason/purpose does Jesus give as He prayed for our unity (John 17:20-23). How could our GCG display this kind of unity to those around us?
- Which of the three practices (bearing, forgiving, agreeing) do you personally need to grow in right now? How can we support one another in that?