

ONE

PART ONE: BOLD TOGETHER

Churches rarely get in trouble because of theological issues. They get in trouble over competing agendas and power grabs. That's not what Jesus had in mind when he launched his church. In fact, when he prayed for his followers, he prayed that they would be *one*. But what does that look like?

BIG IDEA: Unity Can Change Communities.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have most of the people you've met in churches been *one* as Jesus calls them to be one? How has that shaped your perception of Christians?
2. How have your interactions with Christians shaped your perception of Jesus?
3. *With your Bible or Bible App, [read John 17:20-21](#).*

²⁰ "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. [John 17:20-21 \(NLT\)](#)

4. What did Jesus pray for? Do you think most believers and most churches exemplify His prayer? Why or why not?
5. What kind of unity exists between God the Father and Jesus the Son? How does the church's unity or disunity affect others?
6. At what point and with what group have you sensed the most unity: Athletic team? Army unit? Fraternity? Bible Study? Your family? Do you think it's easier to find unity in groups inside or outside the church? Why?
7. *With your Bible or Bible App, [read Ephesians 4:1-16](#).*

¹ Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all. ⁷ But he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. ¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. [Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, 16 \(NLT\)](#)

8. What do you think about the idea that the church is the body of Christ? Does that idea change the way you view the purpose of your local church? Does it change the way you view the role you might play in your local church?
9. Are you serving at a local church? If not, what obstacles stand in your way?
10. What can you do to engage with your local church, to become a part doing your part? What can this group do to help you?

MOVING FORWARD

Jesus said that, when it comes to his church, the world will believe when each part does its part. That's why many of us believe, isn't it? We met a part of the church that was doing his or her part. There was something irresistible and authentic about that person. The closest anyone will be to being in the presence of Jesus is being with his people when the members of the body are functioning like a body.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:4-6