

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



These discussion questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. You can use them for your personal Bible study, family study, and/or small group study.

Overview

Sermon: *ONE Body*

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. – Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV)

The triune God lives in union with himself. He is one. When God created everything, he made the earth, animals, and mankind one with him. When sin entered the world, division came with it. Through Jesus God gifts the earth with new creation and with the sending of the Holy Spirit mankind is brought into unity with God and with each other. We celebrate the oneness of God and the new creation of Jesus by maintaining the unity of the Spirit.

Discussion

1. Using God's word, how does the Apostle Paul describe the church as the body of Christ?
2. The body is made up of diverse parts. We are not "all thumbs." Why is diversity a requirement for unity? How would you explain the difference between unity and uniformity?
3. How do you see the world practicing unity? How do you see the world practicing division? How do you witness the church practicing unity? How do you see the church practicing division?
4. Paul urges the Ephesian church to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received." This passage is in reference to the ethics of love in the Spirit (Eph 3:14-21), unity and not holiness, piety or maintaining religious ordinances. With that in mind how are the Spirit-filled people of God best equipped to tackle division?
5. What is an example of the church "bearing with one another in love and making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace?" What can we learn from that example?

Application

6. How does Paul's theology of oneness help you to see the call to maintaining unity differently? Has it increased your urgency? Is there something you are compelled to do? What is it? How can you begin?
7. Spend time in prayer asking God for church unity. Pray specifically for places where you might see division. Celebrate examples where you see God's oneness practiced through unity.

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