



Message Series Guide

Unity – Ephesians 4:1-16

Part 4 – Unity in Doctrine

With so many denominations, it can seem like Unity in Doctrine is more of an ideal than an actual possibility. This leads many people to wonder if it might be better for Christians to take their doctrine a little less seriously and focus more on simply loving each other. Though this is an understandable suggestion, it does not take into account how connected our behaviors are to our beliefs. The Bible actually tells us that it is only by taking our doctrine more seriously, that we will be able to become people who are less likely to fight with each other about it.

READ:

**Ephesians 4:1-16 · Ephesians 2:13-16 · John 5:39 ·
2 Peter 1:3-10 · Ephesians 3:14-20 · John 17:20-22**

- Read Ephesians 4:1-16. At a base level, what are the goals of Bible study? (v.12-16)
- Read John 5:36-39. In your opinion does Bible study always make us more loving people? If not, what are steps we can take to become more loving through Bible study?
- Read 2 Peter 1:3-10 what “things” should knowledge bring out of us?

DISCUSS:

- Before discussing as a group, spend 1 minute of silence as individuals to open your heart to God, and listen to Him. Then spend 1 minute in prayer asking God to teach you from the Word and the discussion. Then pray together as a group. Ask God to help you recall the sermon from Sunday morning.
- Think back over the few weeks of the Unity series. What common threads or thoughts has the Holy Spirit brought to the front of your mind?
- What are some things you believe that have shaped and formed who you are in a negative way? What about in a positive way?
- Why do you think God cares about us having right doctrine?
- How do allow in ourselves for right doctrine to lead to right practice? (Think back Ephesians 4:1-16, 2 Peter 1:3-10).
- What are the consequences and results of having an incorrect doctrine? How can we support each other in pursuing the truth together in love, and not in division?

PRAY:

Commit this week to pray that you would see doctrine as a way to be formed by the truth into a loving person.

RESPOND:

As a member of the Body of Christ, commit to always strive for unity in doctrine because belief informs behavior.



Sermon Notes
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Our Beliefs Drive our Behaviors

Doctrine is Primarily a Blessing Not a Barrier

Taking the truth more seriously means being more concerned with why we have the doctrine and what it should create in us.

Behavior Builds our Beliefs

The core of Christianity is not just a set of Propositions, it's a Person