

becoming

Selfless Unity

Ephesians 4:2-13 & John 17:20-23

We lay down our pride & preferences, and celebrate our diverse strengths for the sake of the mission.

The Pursuit of Unity

Unity isn't a goal, but an _____.

*"Be completely **humble** and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the **unity** of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

Ephesians 4:2-3

Unity is intended to reflect the _____ of God.

*"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

Unity doesn't equal _____, but maximizes our _____.

*"Christ himself gave us... to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all **reach unity** in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."*

Ephesians 4:12-13

Engaging our culture: Diversity & Unity
"DEI Done Right" by Neil Shenvi
bit.ly/3SchlIX

The Purpose of Unity

Unity is ultimately so that others would know _____.

*"I pray also for those who will believe in me... that they may be brought to complete unity. **Then the world will know** that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."*

John 17:20-23

Selfless Unity

Questions based on Sermon from March 5, 2023

Getting to Know Me

1. Would you rather: Be able to take back anything you say or hear any conversation that is about you?
2. Would you rather: Spend an all-expenses paid vacation around the world with your worst enemy or spend your own money on a vacation with your best friend?

Digging Deeper

3. What encouraged or challenged you from Sunday's sermon unpacking this hope of *selfless unity*?
4. Pastor Phil mentioned *pride* and *preferences* as potential obstacles to unity. What are some other obstacles you have observed? Why are these obstacles difficult to remove?
5. Read Ephesians 4:2-3. If unity is not a goal but an outcome, what should we be striving to attain? What do we need to give up to experience this unity, and what will we gain in it?
6. Have you ever thought of our unity as a reflection of the tri-unity of our one God, eternally existing in three distinct yet co-equal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit? How do you see this reality in Ephesians 4:4-6?
7. Read Ephesians 4:12-13 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-14. How does unity differ from uniformity?

8. Read John 17:20-23. How does knowing this is Jesus's final prayer for you give you comfort? How does it challenge you? What would complete unity look like for you?

Where Do I Go from Here?

9. How does diversity relate to unity? When have you seen a pursuit of both diversity and unity work, and when have you seen this pursuit get off track?
10. Take the following steps this week:
 - **Pray:** For someone you love and trust that could help you identify any pride or preferences that may get in the way of unity.
 - **Ask:** Meet with this person and ask them to help you to become aware of any pride or preferences that you need to release.
 - **Seek:** Have a willing attitude to submit your pride or preferences to Jesus. Submit your will to the will of God to move toward unity.
 - **Trust:** Thank God for his faithfulness to bring to completion your desire to be in unity with all believers in the faith.

Closing in Prayer

Ask God to cultivate this Selfless Unity in us, that we may lay down our pride and preferences, and celebrate our diverse strengths for the sake of the mission.

Most holy God, we thank you that you have provided clear instruction on unity in the body of Christ. We acknowledge our desire to have our own way and seek your forgiveness. Help us to act out of humility and love. Let us be your witness of selfless unity to our selfish and divided world. Thank you that you desire this more than we can imagine. We praise you and pray for a holy revival in this world... start in our hearts. Amen!

"We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ."

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