

Ephesians: Christian Unity

Unity in the Church – Ephesians 4:1-6

October 31, 2021 - *Message Discussion Guide*

Scripture & Message Review

Read Ephesians 4:3 and Philippians 2:3-4.

- Why is unity so hard?

Read Matthew 5:23-24, 1 Samuel 15:22, and Romans 12:18.

- Why do you think the Lord prioritizes unity over worship?
- How should this instruction be carried out in real life?

Read John 13:35, 1 John 4:7-8, and 1 John 3:18-19.

- Why and in what ways should love be the distinctive characteristic of Christians?
- What would love within a church or a group of Christians have to look like for lost people to notice it as distinctive?
- What do these verses say about those who constantly sow discord and do not have a heart for love and unity?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Ephesians 4:32, and Galatians 6:2.

- What are some specific ways we can love Christians in our church or in our group?

Read Ephesians 4:2.

- What are the four foundations of unity in this verse?
- What would be the opposite attitude for each of these four foundations?

Read Ephesians 4:4-6.

- What is the significance of each of these seven things Christians hold in common?

Big Question

- How is forgiveness and unity among Christians a picture of the gospel? How does it picture the impossible thing God has done for us in salvation? How does our forgiveness and unity communicate the wonder of the gospel to the lost world?

Bonus Question

- What does the end of Ephesians 4:6 mean when it says that God is “above all and through all and in all?” How is the God of the Bible not the God of Pantheism or Panentheism? What does it mean that God is transcendent?

Scripture for Discussion Questions

Ephesians 4:3 | making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (CSB)

Philippians 2:3–4 | Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others. (CSB)

Matthew 5:23–24 | So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. (CSB)

1 Samuel 15:22 | Then Samuel said: Does the LORD take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams. (CSB)

Romans 12:18 | If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (CSB)

John 13:35 | By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (CSB)

1 John 4:7–8 | Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (CSB)

1 John 3:18–19 | Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth. This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and will reassure our hearts before him (CSB)

1 Thessalonians 5:11 | Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing. (CSB)

Ephesians 4:32 | And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. (CSB)

Galatians 6:2 | Carry one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (CSB)

Ephesians 4:2 | with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, (CSB)

Ephesians 4:4–6 | There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope at your calling—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (CSB)

Ephesians 4:6 | one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (CSB)