

DISCUSS

- Unity begins with understanding that the Church is not simply a *place* but a *people*. How does viewing Church as a people where God's very presence dwells encourage you to pursue unity? Why is unity so important to Christ?
- Unity is not uniformity but is something higher. It happens when we stop viewing others as problems to be fixed but people to be love, respected, and built up. When have you experienced this type of unity?
- Paul described the Church as an interdependent body (1 Cor 12). When have you learned something or appreciated a different perspective from another member of the body?
- In the sermon we learned that "when the body of Christ is unified in Christ we can engage in the mission of Christ." How does unity or disunity impact our witness? When have you seen spiritual fruit because of unity?

APPLY

- Which of the qualities of unity do you struggle with the most: humility, gentleness, or patience? How can Jesus' example of these qualities encourage you this week?
- Who do you need to pursue unity with in your life? What is one step that you could take to restore unity?

PRAY

- Pray that Wellspring would be a community that is built on the unity of Christ. Pray that where there is disunity that we would "make every effort" to restore the unity of Jesus.
- Pray that the unity of Christ would allow us to be an effective witness of the gospel to those around us.
- Ask God to grow a deeper heart of humility, gentleness and patience in your life.

Devoted

CHURCH REIMAGINED

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Week 2: Devoted to Unity

Key Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

OPEN

As Paul sits in prison for the gospel, his chains are a constant reminder that he is not simply a prisoner of Rome but sees himself as a prisoner *for* the Lord. He is bound to Christ, his Church, and to the community of believers he is writing to. Paul implores this community to "make every effort to keep the unity" (4:3) of Christ. As the Church today, when we choose to fight, not for what divides but for what unites us, we become a community that reflects the presence, power and purpose of Jesus to the world around us. The unity that we are called to maintain is not a creation of the Church, but flows from our identity in Christ (2:13-22). Unity was so important to Jesus that he prays that we would be one so that the world would know of the love of God (John 17:21-23).

REFLECT

After Paul describes this unity (4:1-3) he points to its source (4:4-6). Paul uses a common oral confession of faith to explain *where* their oneness comes from.

- What does unity look like? List the characteristics (4:1-3).
- Which do you find the most difficult? Why?
- Read the confession of faith (4:4-6). How does this "oneness" provide you with hope that unity is possible?