

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel. Philippians 1:27

1. Why does Paul make it sound like having unity in the church is one of the main ways we can act in a manner worthy of the gospel?

- ✓ Please read 1 John 3:10-18
 - How does John say we can tell the children of God from the rest of the world?
 - According to v. 16, how far does this “loving one another” supposed to go?
 - So most Christians won’t be in a position to die for another believer, but how can we lay down our own interests for others? In your life right now, what is one way you could be doing this for someone?

- ✓ 1 John 4:19-21
 - Why do we love each other? How does this relate to the good news of the gospel (think John 3:16!)?
 - Can people who follow Jesus say they have a good relationship with Him and still not get along with other believers?

Because one of the central truths of the gospel is that God is love, and God loved us enough to send His Son to die for our sins, our words and actions need to show the world that love. Jesus told His disciples before He went to the cross for us, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” And even though we don’t “feel like” loving many of the people we barely know or find hard to get along with, we can walk by the Spirit of God and His power to overcome those feelings.

2. I have nothing in common with most of the people at church, how can I “stand in one spirit” with them?

- ✓ Please read John 15:5-12
 - What word picture is this teaching from Jesus drawing of what life in Christ looks like? What does He call Himself, and what do all believers have in common?
 - How will we show ourselves to be His disciples? And which fruit of the Spirit is repeatedly mentioned here in v.9-12?

- ✓ Please read John 17:20-23
 - When Jesus has the opportunity to pray for all the believers yet to come to faith, what does He ask for?
 - We’re seeing a repeated pattern – according to Jesus, why is this His will for us (v. 21 and 23)?
 - Jesus says the key is for us to be “in” God to achieve unity. Can you recall a time when you felt a real bond with another Christian(s) because you were both focused on God’s perspective about living or serving?

The real key to having love and unity with other Christians is living for Jesus and trying to line our lives up with His -- this is abiding or dwelling in Him. When the way we see the world and react is more and more influenced by Christ, we will always have a bond with others who are living the same way.

3. I don’t mind doing my own thing to serve God, but why do I need to “strive together” with all these people?

Week 3: Just Give Me Jesus (cont.)

- ✓ Please read Ephesians 1:22-23 and Ephesians 4:3-7
 - Jesus is called the head, what is the church called in 1:23?
 - In 4:3-6, oneness of the body is the focus and then there is “BUT” that begins v. 7. What does God want to point out about each one of us?
- ✓ To better understand why there is a relationship between each one of us and the body as one, please read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
 - The grace given to each one of us is the gifting that determines our part in the body. What do these verses say about how God has designed His body, the church, to work together?
 - From what is taught in this passage should any Christians feel like what he or she has to offer is less needed or important —why or why not? Check out v. 22-26 again!

The key truth we were thinking about this week from Philippians 1:27-28 is called an “exhortation,” which means something we are called to do, kind of in between an encouragement and a command -- the way a coach might call to you in a game. This call to stand and strive together comes just after Paul’s statements about living for Christ. We’ve seen from Jesus’ own words that when our purpose and source of strength is all wrapped up in Him, we will also have an incredible bond with each other. And this bond allows us to be a functioning and healthy body to do the work He left as our assignment until He returns!



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Ice breaker: Tell about a time you were part of a team that accomplished far more than what you could have done individually.

Big Idea: Read the last paragraph of the weekly devotional guide starting with “The key truth”....and ending with, “until He returns”.

- 1) Read 1 John 3:10-18. What does John say is one of the defining differences between the children of God and the “world”? At one point are we allowed to stop loving one another?
- 2) Read 1 John 4:19-21. Can people who follow Jesus say they have a good relationship with Him, and still not get along with other believers? Are there
- 3) Read John 15:5-12 What fruit of the Spirit is continually mentioned here? How should I apply this to the EGR (extra grace required folks)?
- 4) Read John 17:20-23. According to vs. 21 and 23 what is Jesus’ will for us? Why is this His will for us?

Share a time in your life when you felt a strong bond with someone because you had a common focus or direction.

Look around the room...identify one thing you have in common with each person in your group. How can you personally add to the unity of your group....your church...to the body of Christ? Take time to pray for each other to find a deeper unity with the Body of Christ.