

Hope Church

Sunday Sermon 10/13/24

To watch sermon, click here: <https://youtu.be/sfQLdrCzoEY?t=1539>

Life Group Discussion Guide: Unity in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:10–17; Ephesians 6:10–13; Philippians 2:1–11)

Main Idea:

Unity in the church is essential for fulfilling our mission as followers of Christ. Despite differences, we must be united under Jesus, working together towards the common goal of sharing the Gospel and building God's Kingdom.

Head Change:

Participants will understand that the church must be united under the lordship of Christ, not divided by personal loyalties or external pressures.

Heart Change:

Participants will feel a deeper sense of unity with their fellow believers, recognizing that they are part of the same spiritual family, despite differences.

Life Change:

Participants will actively work to maintain unity in their church community, addressing any personal biases, divisions, or conflicts that arise with a Kingdom-focused mindset.

Opening Discussion:

- **Question:** Have you ever had a disagreement with a close friend or family member that seemed to disappear when you both faced a bigger challenge together?
 - **Introduction:** In our lives, we often have differences with those close to us, but those differences fade when we unite under a common goal. This is true for the church as well. Today, we're going to explore how we can pursue unity as a church, even when we have different personalities, viewpoints, and opinions.
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Scripture Reading:

- **1 Corinthians 1:10–17** – Paul urges the church to live in harmony and avoid divisions based on personal loyalties.
 - **Ephesians 6:10–13** – Paul explains that our true enemy is not each other but spiritual forces, and we must stand firm together against them.
 - **Philippians 2:1–11** – We are called to emulate Christ's humility, serving others selflessly and prioritizing their needs above our own.
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Discussion Questions:

1. **Who Are We Following?** (1 Corinthians 1:10–17)
 - Why do you think the Corinthian church struggled with divisions over their leaders?
 - How do you see similar divisions today, whether in the church, politics, or culture?
 - What does it mean to follow Jesus alone, rather than elevating certain leaders or ideas above Him?

- **Application:** Reflect on whether there are any leaders, movements, or ideas you have placed above Christ in your own life. How can you refocus on following Him alone?
 - 2. **Who Are We Fighting?** (Ephesians 6:10–13)
 - Why is it important to recognize that our battle is not against people but against spiritual forces?
 - How might remembering this truth change how we approach conflicts, whether in church or in society?
 - **Application:** Think about a recent conflict you've had. How could viewing it through the lens of spiritual warfare change your response?
 - 3. **Who Are We Focused On?** (Philippians 2:1–11)
 - How does focusing on others' needs, as Christ did, help build unity in the church?
 - What are some practical ways you can serve others in your church or community this week?
 - **Application:** Challenge yourself to take one step toward selflessly serving someone who is different from you in your church or workplace.
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Additional Reading and Reflection:

- **Romans 12:4–5:** How do these verses emphasize the importance of unity and diversity within the church body?
 - **Reflection Question:** In what ways do you contribute to the health or disunity of your church community? How can you help foster deeper unity?
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Application and Personal Commitment:

- **Question:** What is one practical step you can take to help your church or small group grow in unity this week?
 - **Commitment:** Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal any areas of pride or division in your heart. Commit to being a peacemaker and a servant in your church, focusing on building others up.
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Last Word:

We are all different, with unique gifts, personalities, and opinions, but we share the same goal: advancing God's Kingdom. As we focus on Christ, fight our true enemy, and serve one another, we can reflect a unified church to a divided world. The greatest witness we can offer is our unity in Jesus Christ.

Go Deeper:

- **1 John 4:20–21:** How does love for fellow believers demonstrate our love for God?
- **Reflection Question:** What barriers in your heart prevent you from fully loving those in your church who are different from you?

Let's strive to be united in Christ, reflecting His love to the world around us.