

Running Smoothly

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, October 4th, 2015

Insights on Unity from 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

2 Causes of Disunity:

- **We have an inability...**

(1 Corinthians 3:1-2)

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- **We are dominated by...**

(1 Corinthians 3:3-4)

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4 Cures for Disunity:

1. **Yield our wills**_____

(1 Corinthians 2:12-13, James 4:7, Proverbs 3:5-6)

2. **All true Christians**_____

(1 Corinthians 3:5, John 13:1-20, Matthew 20:28)

3. **All true servants**_____

(1 Corinthians 3:8-9, 12:12-31)

4. **God is**_____

(1 Corinthians 3:5-7, Psalm 115:3, Daniel 4:34-35)

Final Question?

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to week 4 of our Fall Small Group Session! We are continuing our study in the book of 1 Corinthians as we look at unity and submitting to the Spirit in our lives. We pray this is a great time of growing in God's Word together.

Quick Review: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or raised a question to you?

Getting Started:

1. Unity is important not only in the church but also in many other aspects of life. Was there a time you were on a team, or watched a game where there was disunity? What happened?

2. When you think about unity, what immediately comes to mind? Why does that image come to mind when you think of unity? Is there anything we can learn about unity from your example?

Digging Deeper:

1. Dave talked about how important it is for us to yield to the Spirit, not the flesh. God has given us some resources to help us do this consistently, most notably the Bible and other believers. What do the following passages say about each of these resources and how we can use them in our lives?

- Psalm 19:7-14
- Psalm 1:1-3
- Hebrews 3:13
- Hebrews 10:24-25

After seeing what these passages have said about how to constantly yield to the Spirit, is there anything you need to do to move in a direction of better taking advantage of these resources?

2. We saw in this weekend's teaching that being dominated by the fleshly nature will impact unity within the Body of Christ. This leads to jealousy and strife in the church. Read Galatians 5:16-25. Paul makes a clear distinction between the Spiritual life and the worldly life and the impact these have on our relationship with others. List the influences both lives have on how we relate to others. Thinking of the message and insights from this passage, how can these help you consistently choose to live as a Spiritual Person?

3. A mark of maturity in the Christian life is that of service. When a person is a new believer they are in the infancy stage of belief. Paul urges the Corinthian believers to move past the selfishness of infancy to maturity. Read John 13:1-20.

What do you learn about service from the example that Jesus gives us? How does this passage challenge your ideas of service? After your reading, how do you see service as a sign of maturity?

One of the great ways to serve is with our upcoming Faith In Action Sunday. This is an opportunity for our church to bless our community by being the hands and feet of Jesus. We are looking for 400 people from our church family to be part of this event which includes adults, students, and kids. This event will be a great blessing to you, your family, your small group, and our community. Please join us for this great event on October 11!

4. Often times when we think of the Body of Christ, we tend to think those people on stage are the most important. How does this weekend's teaching challenge or confirm that thinking? Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. What insights does this passage offer that help to further shape your thinking in this regard? How does this encourage you in the gifts that God has given you?

5. Too often Christians try to live the Christian life in their own power rather than relying on God's power. What do the following verses teach us about relying on God's strength rather than our own?

- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- Zechariah 4:6

Why do you think God is so concerned with people relying on his power and not their own?

Taking it Home:

Looking back at the final questions from this weekend's teaching and this week's study, is there a point or statement that is especially important for you to remember this week?

Take a few moments to take some prayer request and spend some time praying for the other members in your group.