



Blind Date My Church

Part 4 – We Stay United

Study Guide

The feeling of divisiveness in our country and current culture is palpable. Politics, racial tension, divorce, and violence are some of the issues that can create disharmony in our relationships and conversations—if we allow them. As Jesus followers we are instructed in Ephesians 4:1-6 to maintain unity. As we talk and consider some of the divisive issues of our day, let us remember to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling.” Let us approach our discussions with “all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity.” When the world sees us choose unity as a church, in marriage, in our friendships and in our Life Groups, it sends a powerful message without a single tweet or Facebook status update. We stay united. That’s the message Jesus wants us to send.

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” - Ephesians 4:1-6 (ESV)

1. What issues concern you and cause you to wonder if you can maintain unity? Can your group list all of those issues without judgment of each other, or getting into a discussion about them?
2. **Read John 17:20-21.** Jesus starts out praying for His disciples in John 17, but in verse 20 He shifts His focus to us! What is Jesus praying for when He says, “those who will believe in me through [the disciples] word,” and why does He pray for it?

“Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.” - Matthew 18:19 (ESV)

3. **Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22.** What circumstance caused Paul to concede that there was some value in the factions, or divisions, in the church in Corinth?

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” 1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)

4. **Read James 3:17-18.** List the characteristics from this passage that come from God, and result in righteousness and peace. How can we infuse our conversations with those characteristics to promote unity?
5. Does your Life Group have a regular habit of praying together and agreeing together for your specific prayer requests? Use some time during your meeting to pray in agreement.