

## Why Unity?

Sunday message from November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

~ Notes & Reflections ~

- **John 17.20-23:** “... I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message... May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”
- **Why unity? The impact is intense.**
  - ❖ What impact does unity among believers in Jesus have (see [John 17.20-23](#))?
  - ❖ What might be the impact of lack of unity?
- **In the early church, God was doing a new work among the Gentiles and this became a challenge to unity.**
  - ❖ How does the gospel coming to Gentiles challenge unity in the early church?
  - ❖ How do leaders respond? ([Acts 10.28](#), [11.1-18](#), [15.1-35](#); [Galatians 2.1-10](#))
  - ❖ What can we learn from these experiences in the early church?
- **Why unity? The very gospel is at stake.**
  - ❖ Paul’s letter to the Galatians was written because a group of people were causing division by discrediting Paul and sharing a false gospel.
  - ❖ How does the content of the gospel message impact unity? And, how does unity impact the content of the gospel message? (see [Galatians 1.6-7](#), [3.26-28](#))
- **God’s desire for unity began at creation. As image-bearers, we are meant to reflect the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**
  - ❖ Read [Genesis 1.26-27](#) and [2.20-25](#). How do you see God’s desire for unity in these passages? What did unity look like before the Fall?
- **Unity does not come naturally. We have to actively pursue unity.**
  - ❖ There is an enemy (world, flesh, devil) that desire to bring and keep division.
  - ❖ Unity is a supernatural trait. We need to cooperate with God to bring it about in our lives.
- Consider the following passages. What can you learn about unity and what next step can you take to put it into practice?
  - ❖ [2 Corinthians 5.14-21](#)
  - ❖ [Galatians 6.14-16](#)
  - ❖ [Ephesians 1.5-11](#)
  - ❖ [Ephesians 4.1-6](#)
  - ❖ [Colossians 3.12-15](#)
  - ❖ [Philippians 2.1-5](#)
  - ❖ [Acts 4.32-35](#)
- What statements or aspects of this message bring comfort? Which bring conviction? Take some time to talk to God about what bubbles up as you read/hear and reflect on this message.
- What might God be inviting you into as a response to this message/reflection on unity in the body of Christ?