



Growing in Christ Together

FALL CHURCHWIDE SERIES

WEEK 3 – UNITY IN DIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 - PASTOR BRIAN COLES

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **None Like You** (*Jesus Culture*)
- **Goodness of God** (*Bethel Music*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- John 17:20-23

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your session with a prayer, asking God for protection, wisdom, and guidance as you discuss the questions.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Unity in Christ transcends our differences and is rooted in our shared salvation and purpose.
2. True unity requires humility, gentleness, patience, and love.
3. Listening is a crucial component of maintaining unity.
4. We are called to overcome evil with good, even when it's difficult.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does unity in Christ mean to you? How is it different from uniformity?
2. Pastor Brian Coles mentioned that unity doesn't mean we always agree or like the same things. How can we maintain unity despite our differences?
3. Reflect on the diversity described in Revelation 7:9-12. How does this heavenly picture challenge our earthly notions of unity?
4. Pastor Brian shared a story about a young man with diverse ethnic backgrounds. How does this relate to the church's unity in diversity?
5. Discuss the statement: "Keep the main thing the main thing. The main thing is JESUS." How can we apply this in our daily lives and church community?
6. How can we practice being "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19) in our relationships with fellow believers?
7. What challenges do you face in loving your enemies or overcoming evil with good? Share experiences or struggles.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. Practice active listening: In your next disagreement with someone, focus on truly understanding their perspective before responding.
2. Unity challenge: Reach out to a fellow believer who is different from you (in age, background, or viewpoint) and invite them for coffee or a meal.
3. Enemy love exercise: Identify someone you struggle to get along with and commit to praying for them daily for a week.
4. Church unity project: Brainstorm ways your small group can contribute to fostering unity in your broader church community.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for unity within your small group, your church, and the broader Body of Christ. Ask God to help each member apply the lessons learned from this study.