



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Ice Breaker: If you could go back in time and win one fight you had as a kid, who was it that you took on and by winning, what would you hope would be changed?

- Pastor Tom opened his message with this question: “Why is stirring up dissension such an ongoing problem?” Take time to answer this question. How have you experienced this in your life?
- In looking at how easy it is to criticize most any area of life, Pastor Tom quoted Bishop J. McKinney when he stated, “*Anyone can love the ideal church. The challenge is to love the real church.*” How does this challenge you as you think about those in your life with whom you don’t agree? What about when you’re the one someone else disagrees with?
- Review the definition Pastor Tom gave for “incorrigible” in your Message Notes. Have you known someone like this, or have there been times in your life where you battled this tendency? How did their/your behavior impact the group involved? Read Galatians 5 verses 20, 14-15, 6b and 22-23. How are the same people listed in the first set of verses able to do what they are called to do in the last set of verses?
- When you’ve experienced someone who “sows discord,” what, if anything, have you done to stop their influence? Read Proverbs 6:19a, Jude 16, Titus 3:10-11 and Romans 16:17-18. Does it surprise you that God wants us to take concrete, even harsh sounding steps in response to this kind of behavior? How so? Now that you know how God would have you respond, what will that look like?
- Read John 17:20-23. Why is it essential to keep genuine unity among believers? Pastor Tom wisely pointed out that while there are many things we can disagree about, “we can experience genuine unity by focusing on what’s essential...” Why is it so easy to focus on what we disagree about instead of the essential things we agree upon? Read Psalm 133:1 and Ephesians 4:1-3. How and when have you experienced this kind of unity?
- As you complete your time together, read Philippians 2:1-5 and Romans 15:5-7. Take time to pray together that this kind of unity begins in your group and spreads as you genuinely seek unity in our larger Riverside Church family.

PERSONAL GUIDE

Day 1: Read Psalm 86

Day 2: Read Psalm 87

Day 3: Read Psalm 88

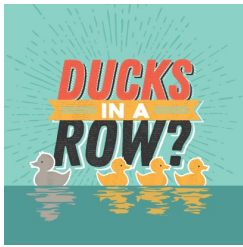
Day 4: Read Psalm 89

Day 5: Read Psalm 90

DUCKS
IN A
ROW?

CIVIL WAR
JUNE 9TH, 2019

**MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION || PERSONAL GUIDES**



“Civil War” [Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Note Proverbs 6:16, 19b

Why is stirring up _____ such an ongoing problem...even in churches and among professing followers of Jesus at times?

1. There is Always Something to _____

If you are looking for something to _____ in most areas of life, you can find it.

“Anyone can love the i_____ church. The challenge is to love the r_____ church.” (Bishop J. McKinney)

2. People Who “Sow Discord” Are Usually I _____ (not Proverbs 6:12-14, 19b)

Definition = *not capable of being* _____.

_____ big issue (*note Galatians 5:20, 14-15, 6 b, 22-23*).

Most importantly—THEY ARE NEVER _____.

3. Breaking the _____ of People Who “Sow Discord”

Note Proverbs 6:19a,b and Jude 16

God clearly tells us that people who do this have to be dealt with, because to do nothing is _____ for them to keep up their “civil war” activities (*note Titus 3:10-11; Romans 16:17-18*)

4. Sharing God’s Passion for _____

Note John 17:20-23

There are innumerable things we can _____ about...

...but as Christ-followers we can experience genuine unity by focusing on what’s _____...(*note Psalm 133:1 and Ephesians 4:3*).

So are my ducks in a row?:

- God wants to _____ us by changing the way we think and transforming us by His Spirit...(*note Philippians 2:1-5*)
- *Note Romans 15:5-6*

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the Connect Card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Civil War”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Note Proverbs 6:16, 19b

Why is stirring up dissension such an ongoing problem...even in churches and among professing followers of Jesus at times?

1. There is Always Something to Criticize

If you are looking for something to criticize in most areas of life, you can find it.

Anyone can love the ideal church. The challenge is to love the real church. (Bishop J. McKinney)

2. People Who “Sow Discord” Are Usually Incurrible (note Proverbs 6:12-14, 19b)

Definition = *not capable of being corrected.*

Legalism big issue (note Galatians 5:20, 14-15, 6b, 22-23).

Most importantly – THEY ARE NEVER SATISFIED.

3. Breaking the Influence of People Who “Sow Discord”

Note Proverbs 6:19a,b and Jude 16

God clearly tells us that people who do this have to be dealt with, because to do nothing is permission for them to keep up their “civil war” activities (note Titus 3:10-11; Romans 16:17-18).

4. Sharing God’s Passion for Unity

Note John 17:20-23

There are innumerable things we can disagree about...

...but as Christ-followers we can experience genuine unity by focusing on what’s essential...(note Psalm 133:1 and Ephesians 4:3).

So are my ducks in a row?:

- ...God wants to liberate us by changing the way we think and transforming us by His Spirit...(note Philippians 2:1-5).
- Note Romans 15:5-6

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the Connect Card to let us know about your commitment, too!