

Lesson 3: Unity in Christ

A. The problem of cliques in the church

1. 1 Corinthians 1:10 What appeal does Paul make at the beginning of his letter to Christians in Corinth?
2. Why did Paul make this appeal for unity and harmony among the believers? 1 Corinthians 1:12-13
3. Why is it so easy for cliques to form in churches, resulting in divisions and contentions?
4. Why are divisions and contentions so debilitating and damaging as Christians seek to share the good news about Jesus with others? John 13:35, John 17:21-23
5. What is the difference between a clique and a healthy small group?

B. Perfectly joined together

1. 1 Corinthians 1:10 How is it possible for imperfect human beings to be perfectly joined together? 1 Corinthians 1:4-9, Colossians 3:12-14, Romans 5:5
2. What does it mean to be of “the same mind”? Philipians 2:1-8
3. How is it possible to have a diversity of opinions and still be of the same mind?

C. Growing in spiritual maturity

1. 1 Corinthians 3:1-2 How does Paul describe the spiritual maturity of Christians in Corinth?
2. How was their spiritual immaturity manifested? 1 Corinthians 3:3-4
3. What is an indication that Christians are growing in their spiritual maturity? 1 Corinthians 2:12-16
4. Who has helped you mature spiritually?

D. Leading as servants of Christ

1. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2
2. What teaching of Jesus reminds us of the need to follow His example of servant leadership? Mark 10:42-45
3. What does it mean to be “stewards of the mysteries of Christ”?
4. Is suffering an inevitable experience for servants of Christ? 1 Corinthians 4:9-13, John 15:18-21, Matthew 5:11-12
5. What are your thoughts about Paul’s invitation in 1 Corinthians 4:16? (see also 1 Corinthians 11:1)
6. We all have a circle of influence. Who is looking to you as an example?
7. Why is it always better to keep our eyes focused on Jesus rather than focusing on human leaders, however gifted or charismatic they might be?
8. How can we be assured that we will be faithful examples and faithful stewards in our circle of influence?