

Community—A Worshiping Community

Study Questions

Philippians 2:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Psalm 133:1; Acts 4:32-33

Warm-up

1) When was the last time you were either traveling or working on something in a group, and you found out that you weren't all in agreement as to what the end-goal was?
Was an end-goal eventually achieved?

A little deeper

2) [Philippians 2:1-2] What should be the source of our unity? What does this mean if there is a disagreement—what should be done, or not done (some examples appear below)?

Explain your reasoning

Let the other person win (don't make waves)

Act on your emotions

Pray together

Avoid the other person

Avoid the issue altogether

3) [1 Corinthians 1:10] Continue reading the rest of this section (verses 10-17). What was wrong with various Christians saying that they followed someone? What do these statements say about their approach to being a Christian?
When have you heard this sort of divisive statement in more modern terms?

4) [Psalm 133:1] This psalm is attributed to King David, well before the birth of Jesus. Some translations of this verse talk about "brethren" living in unity, while others talk about "God's people"—What qualifies someone to be worth our efforts at unity with them?

Who should we be seeking unity with? Who should we take care not to unify ourselves with?

5) [Acts 4:32-33] Through a modern perspective, these verses often are said to look like Socialism. How is the sharing of possessions by early Christians *different* from Socialism? If it helps to answer the question, consider what might trigger someone's plow to be offered for use by another person; consider what might happen if the plow were to have been damaged when used; and consider 2 Thessalonians 3:10.

Bringing it home

6) In what ways do you currently feel united to your church community?
How much effort does it take to maintain that unity?

7) In what ways are you feeling disconnected or out-of-step with your church community?
What would it take to address this?

Prayer

8) Give God thanks for your salvation, and the community that salvation brought you into. Ask Him to give you the courage, patience, and love you need to continue bringing you into closer unity with one another.