

Sunday, June 11, 2017 - "Is Unity Necessary" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Ephesians 2:12-22, Galatians 3:27-29, Ephesians 3:8-11

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Is unity necessary and WHY?
- The real question is actually, "Are we united or are we not?"
- 4 Unity Truths
- 1) We ARE united
 - We are actually one
 - Peace w/ God through Jesus allows us to have peace with one another
 - Unity is not what we are working FOR it is what we are working FROM
 - v15-16 This is what HAS happened
 - We are A NEW RACE (Galatians 3:27-29)
 - "Clothed in Christ"
 - The outer garment
 - We are still different and unique and diverse BUT our identity in Christ covers over every other marker that we have. It becomes the priority for our identity
- 2) We sabotage unity when we hold any identity marker above Christ
 - Identity markers are not necessarily bad...but it's about the priority of our markers
 - God has made us diverse on purpose
 - We are made to move towards people that are different than us and make an impact on their lives
 - If we are hesitant or unwilling to move towards those that are different, then we need to examine our priorities
- 3) The Spirit of God moves through our unity
 - Unity is a multiplier (v22)
 - People will see when we come together in unity.
 - The building of the tabernacle or the wall in Nehemiah
- 4) Our unity makes God known
 - Ephesians 3:10-11
 - Unified church makes God known
 - We are one in our diversity. God designed us to be diverse and beautiful.
 - John 17:21
 - There is no limit to what God can do through the unified church

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What are some things that the Lord has taught you about unity?
2. Has there ever been a time where you have put another identity marker before your identity in Christ? What did the Lord teach you about that?
3. When have you seen the Spirit of God move through unity?
4. What are some of the things you can envision God doing through unity in your family, church, or ministry?
5. What would our lives and relationships look like if we were truly "clothed in Christ"?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Matthew 13 Tues: Matthew 14 Wed: Matthew 15 Thurs: Matthew 16 Fri: Matthew 17

****5 Minutes Reading/5 Minutes Writing/5 Minutes Praying**