

## Sermon Discussion Guide:

# Unity in the Church

Sunday, August 22, 2021

Scripture: **Ephesians 4:1-6**

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### OVERVIEW

Over the last 18 months, our country has experienced great division over news sources, politics, the presidential election, how to live in a pandemic, whether to lockdown or not, the wearing of masks, vaccination status, and more. All of us have experienced loss, whether it be a loved one, a job, time with extended family and friends, or a normal school experience. We've experienced this alienation and loss despite living in a culture that prides itself on tolerance. Tragically, this division has bled into the church—where our diversity should be celebrated as we affirm our unity in Christ. **Our unity in Christ demands a unity in the church.**

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### CORROBORATING TEXTS

Colossians 3:9–11, Philippians 2:3–8, John 17:11, John 17:20–23

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Our text begins with “I therefore...”. What precedes Ephesians 4:1–6 and why is that context essential to properly understand today’s text? *[Ephesians chapters 1–3 are full of indicatives that announce the spiritual blessings we have in Christ, which are rooted in the gospel that comes to us by grace through faith, and that has been mysteriously revealed to Jews and Gentiles alike. This is the foundation and power for believers to live out the imperatives that begin in chapter 4.]*
2. What does scripture teach us about the need to maintain unity in the church?
3. Do you think your local community (co-workers, neighbors) sees the church as “unified”? In what ways have you either positively or negatively affected this perception through the discussions you prioritize, your social media postings, and other signals you send?
4. What are three characteristics Tony shared that typify walking in unity? *[humility, gentleness, patience]* Are these characteristics born out of weakness or strength? *[ref. Philippians 2:5-8]*
5. With whom in the church are you most unified and connected to? Are the ties that bind you primarily based on personal preferences or on the one body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, God, and Father that binds believers?