

**SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS: TRUE UNITY IN JESUS
SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2019.**

- 1 Discuss in small groups where have you experienced disunity in life – in work, in family life, in churches etc.
How would you define the word 'unity'?
- 2 Unity among Christians is relational – we are all members of one family, united with God through the HS and united with each other because we all have the same 'dad!' Read 1 Corinthians 1:10 – Paul suggests that we have Unity to agree in what we say and be 'perfectly united' in mind and thought. Is this possible?? In what way?
- 3 Jesus was passionate for unity amongst his followers. Read John 17: 20-23. What does this say about unity?
- 4 Read Psalm 133. What is one of the major benefits of unity? Where have you seen this demonstrated in your life or experiences?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-23

- 5 Paul is incredulous that the Corinthians hadn't grown in their faith at all, see v2. In two's discuss what your faith was like as a new Christian, then how it's changed over time. Have you grown as much as you should have? What hinders and what helps grow your faith?
- 6 Jealousy, boasting and quarrelling.....what situations have you found these three beauties rearing their ugly heads? How did you deal with them? Discuss in small groups.
- 7 Solid food- Sunday roasts NOT milkshakes! Look at Psalm 119 :1-16. Why should we be reading, meditating on and inwardly digesting God's word?
- 8 Paul describes himself and Apollos as servant gardeners with different duties – one plants and one waters. They have a single purpose, they are not in competition with each other. What are your gifts? Encourager? Tea maker? Joy bringer? Preacher? Techy whiz, admin angel? Read Ephesians 4:3 and 11-13 which explains why we have all these gifts. *to equip his people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and become mature.* Discuss in a small group what your gifts are and how you've been using them. Has God used them as you expected? Paul points out very clearly v7 that nothing grows unless God makes it. As we use our gifts we are utterly dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit. Without him, our work is fruitless.

We have a great shortage of volunteers to help our youth at the moment. Could this be you? God will equip with all that you need if it is! If not, please pray hard for them.

- 9 V10-14 states that we are the builders building together on the foundations of Jesus but we must complete our tasks well – with durability. Our work has to stand divine

judgement. Can you think of a time when you built using precious stones and when you built with straw and hay? What is the result of poor quality workmanship and poor quality resources? How does this make you feel?

- 10 Conclude by summing up the passage together, defining what we need for unity and how we can use our gifts well to build God's kingdom in our own lives and in greater numbers for God's glory. Please note that we have God's spirit living in us v16 so we have all the power we need!

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