



Week #5: Rooted in Unity

Why are we so divided?

- Some of us are more committed to _____ than _____.

What can unify us?

- A recapturing of what the _____ is to be.
- The church is a _____ idea that created a radical _____.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Colossians 3:5-11 (NIV)

- God is not wanting us to _____ culture; He's inviting us to _____ a new one with him.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the

Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

How did the first church grow?

- They lived and loved _____ than the world around them.

What is our application?

- You don't _____ to church. You _____ the church.
- _____ to church produces a group of people who _____
culture = _____.
- _____ the church produces a group of people who _____
culture = _____.

Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on the prolonged season of cultural unrest we are collectively experiencing. How have you responded to the politicization of the pandemic, America's racial reckoning, and other social issues?
2. Have your commitments as a Christ-follower guided the way you view and respond to political hot-buttons? If so, how? And if not, why not?
3. What are your attitudes about working together in unity and oneness within the Body of Christ?
4. How does one's commitment to ideology over theology affect us as individuals, and us as a part of the Body of Christ? What spiritual practices can you begin or revisit that would help you foster a spirit of Godly unity within your sphere of influence?

Recommended Resources

- *The Deeply Formed Life*, by Rich Villodas
- *At Your Best*, by Carey Nieuwhof
- *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*, by Peter Scazzero
- *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, by John Mark Comer
- *An Unhurried Life*, by Alan Fadling
- *Life Together*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer