

August 11 – 17

Never Heard That | Division or Unity

Icebreaker: What are common reasons for division in churches? Why is unity so important in the church?

In this passage we will consider why unity is essential and tied into the gospel itself.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10–17

- Why is Paul so concerned about unity in the Corinthian church?
 - What was happening at that time in that church?
- To what does Paul appeal as the basis for unity? (v 10)
- Have individual group members look up each of these passages:
 - Psalm 133:1, John 17:21, Ephesians 4:1–3, Philippians 2:2, Colossians 1:17.
 - What do you learn about unity? Why is it important?
- Is unity and uniformity the same thing? Why or why not? How do you define unity?
- Why are people drawn to following specific human leaders? Why is loyalty to specific leaders antithetical to the nature of the church?
- Paul writes that he was sent to preach the gospel, not baptize. Why is that order important?
- If Paul had come to them with great eloquence, how would that empty the cross of its power? Are there other ways we diminish the importance of the cross?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:13.
 - Why is baptism a unifying practice?
 - What makes the unity of the church unique within cultures?
- Paul spends this passage downplaying the importance of baptism in relation to the gospel. Why is baptism still an essential part of the Christian experience?

Application

- What kind of significant divisions exist in the church today?
- How do we determine whether an issue is worthy of division or not?
- Are there any areas of personal pride or spiritual boasting you are holding on to?
- What can you do today to promote unity in your fellowship?
- If you are a believer, have you ever been baptized? If not, what is the barrier that keeps you from taking that step?