

September 5th, One Mind
Part 3 in the series 'Go Together'

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

When someone says they long for unity, what might they mean by that?

Why can unity not be a goal in and of itself?

A: Unity and oneness are a byproduct or an outcome of something else. **It is the resulting state of people who have all embraced a shared belief or idea.**

READ Ephesians 4:11-16

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. **15** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. **16** From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

What does Paul envision unity as?

How are knowledge and unity intertwined?

How are maturity and unity interconnected?

Romans 14:1-3

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them.

How can we know if a matter is disputable?

How can we be of one mind and thought whilst simultaneously allowing for different perspectives?

What's the ultimate question that, if agreed upon, allows for unity?

A: Is there a God?

Do you agree that we can only be unified if we agree on the answer to that question?

Jim talked about the core beliefs that unite every Jesus follower in last Sunday's message. Can you remember what they are?

Discuss any of the following:

- **There is One God.** Not many, but one God. There are no other gods but God.
- **God is love, God is light, and God is good,** and God is the very essence of **life.**
- **God created time, space, and matter.** He is not subject to or confined by time space and matter, having created it, but is outside of it.
- **God created human beings in his own image and likeness,** which means they are of far greater value and dignity than any other thing or creature in all of creation (including the animals).
- **Because God is love, he gave human beings free will,** which means they have the ability to choose to live in relationship with him, or out of relationship with him.
- **Human being chose en masse to live outside of relationship with him.**
- **Because of this, disconnection, darkness, evil, and death came into existence.**
- **Because our relationship with God had been broken, God himself became a human being to restore our relationship with Him.**
- **God, through Jesus, subjected himself to our disconnection, darkness, evil, and death,** absorbing it in his own flesh and blood by virtue of his cruel and unjust death on the cross.
- **After suffering physical death and being put in a tomb, he was raised back to life,** providing hope for eternal life to whoever will put their faith and trust in him.
- **God, through Jesus, extends grace, mercy, and forgiveness to all who turn to him.**
- **We will all one day stand before God and answer to him for the lives we lived and the choices we made.**