

Unity – Week 4 – Pastor Guy Conn – 8-28-22

1. When have you experienced being united in a common purpose with others? (Sports Team, Business Project, Community Effort)
2. What words would you use to describe how it feels to be united with others?

Ephesians 4:1-16 - As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

3. In what ways can you “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit”?
4. When is it difficult to keep the unity of the Spirit, or unity in the church?
5. What do these verses tell us will help us keep the unity when it becomes difficult?
6. Which of these means of keeping unity would you say it hardest for you? (being humble, gentle, patient, bearing others)

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it^[a] says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.” ⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 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.

7. What is one meaningful gift that someone has given you? Why was it meaningful?
8. What gifts has Christ given you? (Grace, Spiritual Gifts)
9. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If so, what are they? If not, what would you guess God has gifted you with the ability to do?
10. Why is it so important that “each part does its work” in the body of Christ (the church)?
11. If you were to dream REALLY, REALLY BIG, what would you like to see the Church accomplish as a united team?

At Fox River Our Heart is People and Our Message is Jesus.

12. How do you know if someone really cares about you?
13. How do others know that we as Christians care for them?
14. Why is having a heart for people so important?
15. What does a heart for people look like?
16. Why is it important to share the message of Jesus?
17. What happens when we are kind to others but don't share the message of Jesus?
18. What happens when we share the message of Jesus, but don't aren't loving?
19. God's BIG Purpose is that everyone would be saved. What is your role in that? What is the church's role in that?

20. What smaller purposes need to be accomplished to reach towards that BIG purpose?
21. God's 1st purpose for you is that you have restored relationship with Him through Jesus. When did this happen for you?
22. God's 2nd purpose for you is in following Jesus. Some things Jesus asks us to do are to Gather, Grow, Give and Go. Which one of these is easiest for you? Which one do you struggle with?
23. What's one step you can take this week to live out God's purpose for you?