

Sermon Discussion Guide:

The Key to Christian Unity

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Scripture: **Philippians 2:1-11**

OVERVIEW

Kyle highlighted how the Lakers won three consecutive NBA championships due to their two superstars (Kobe and Shaq) demonstrating unity instead of focusing on their own glory. Yet, two years later, the highly-favored Lakers lost the series to the underdog. Sometimes the big egos of star players can get in the way of team unity, where individual glory is pursued at the expense of team unity and chemistry. In Paul's passage in Philippians, we are reminded of Christ's humility, obedience, and love. This should compel individual believers to imitate Christ's humility, and it should compel the body of Christ to pursue unity with each other in tangible ways that reflect the unity we have in Christ. Christlike humility is the key to Christian unity.

CORROBORATING TEXTS

John 17:21; Philippians 1:17; Matthew 11:28-29; John 13:34; John 15:13-14; Galatians 6:10; James 1:27; Isaiah 1:17; 1 Corinthians 12:20-26

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How should we think about Christian unity? What is it that unites us as believers? What things can divide us, even within the body of Christ? What keeps us from being united?
2. Read John 17:21-23 and John 13:34-35. How do you think the unbelieving, watching world views the church? What would they say about our professed unity in Christ? Do you think the witness of the church draws unbelievers to seek Christ, or repels them away?
3. How can we engage and address unbelievers' perceptions regarding the lack of unity in the local church as well as the larger body of Christ? What message do they still need to hear? How can we point them to Christ in spite of the lack of unity in the church?
4. As believers, we should seek to imitate Christ's humility in our love and service toward others. How well do you put others' needs before your own? Do you have any blind spots in this area? How can today's sermon motivate you to love and serve others more consistently?
5. Kyle discussed three principles for helping others. What are they? [*Having a church focus; helping the hurting and oppressed; and working toward helping those who are different or who we do not like.*] What makes these difficult? What are some tangible ways that we can seek to do each of these?
6. Read Matthew 5:43-45. How well do you do at loving your enemies? Who (or what) are your enemies? How can imitating Christ's humility motivate you to love your enemies?