



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: You Can't Spell Community without Unity

## GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

*Name some things that families often argue about? How has taken sides in an argument ever disrupted or broken a relationship?*

## QUICK REACTIONS

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

## QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

What does a community without any unity look like?

Without "over-thinking" it, why is unity such an important, essential issue for the apostle Paul?

In what ways can we create unnecessary division with others that has nothing to do with "the message of the cross"?

What issue is dividing the church in 1 Corinthians 1 and how do we get trapped in similar issues today?

## EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [1 Corinthians 1:10-18]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.)

On what basis did Paul appeal to the Corinthian believers? (1:10)

Why did Paul ask the Corinthians to agree with one another? (1:10)

What kind of action did the Corinthian church need to take? (1:10-17)

What specific problem were the Corinthian Christians having? (1:11-12)

How was Paul a part of the Corinthians' problems? (1:13-17)

How did baptism cause division in the Corinthian church? (1:13-17)

What can result from preaching the gospel with "words of human wisdom"? (1:17)

What did Christ enable Paul to do? (1:17)

What danger is there in dividing a church? (1:17)

What danger was Paul trying to avoid? (1:17)

What's wrong with preaching the gospel with "words of human wisdom"? (1:17)

## QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How did Paul show his concern for the Corinthians?

What difference does local church unity make?

What does it mean for Christians to be "perfectly united in mind and thought"?

Why is it important for Christians to be united?

How should we respond to arguments among Christians today?

How can division among Christians empty Christ's message of its power?

What witness does a unified church give to a lost world?

What social and cultural forces present the greatest threat to the unity of Christ's church today?

How can Christians avoid becoming distracted by petty disagreements?

What can your church do to build unity and guard against division?

What practices can help us be more united with other Christians?

## APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?