



UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EPHESIANS 4:1-21


1 Why is unity important in a local church?

 Describe some of the characteristics of a unified church versus a divided church?


 What are some proactive steps members can take to bolster church unity?

 How can you contribute to the unity of the church?


2 On the one hand, unity is given by the Spirit, but on the other hand, unity is something that we must diligently work to maintain. What are some personal practices or group disciplines that would serve to preserve unity in the church?


 The attitudes of humility, gentleness, and patience are required for unity in the church. Which do you struggle with most? What passages of scripture are important to you in your pursuit of a Christ-honoring attitude?

3 How can our church welcome and unite people from diverse backgrounds? How can you contribute personally to these efforts?


 In Ephesians 4 there are seven statements that describe how Christians are one, and yet some still don't feel like they belong. What are some things that could help people feel more connected to the body of Christ?


4 How would someone know if they were using their gifts for personal enjoyment or promotion, instead of serving the body of Christ and leveraging them for the upbuilding of the body? What would misusing our gifts look like?

 What gifts do you think God has given you, and how could you potentially use them for the building up of the church?

 Do you think that the church needs every member to exercise their spiritual gifts? What do you think might happen if some members chose to ignore their gifts and not use them in the church?


5 **Ephesians 4:15 says that we are supposed to “speak the truth in love.”** What does that mean?

 Do you tend to speak truth without love or love without truth? What are the dangers of both?

 Is there a situation in your life where you need to speak the truth lovingly? Perhaps you could share it with your study group and request prayer.


6 **How would you describe the relationship between leaders and members in a local church?**


 According to Ephesians 4:12-16, what are some of the responsibilities you have as a member of a local congregation?

 To what extent are you participating in the work of the body of Christ in order to bring others to spiritual maturity and edify the body in love?

PRAYER REQUESTS

7 **Ephesians 4:14 describes some characteristics of “infants” or “children” – meaning Christians who have not matured in their faith.** Write down those characteristics. What do these word pictures convey to you?

 What are some practical ways you can mature so that you’re not spiritually unstable or gullible?

 What does a mature church look like – how would you recognize one?