

### Getting To Know You

1. When you think of unity what comes to mind? What is necessary for unity to exist? Explain.
2. What causes disunity? Explain. In your experience, what have been the primary issues that led to disunity in the church?
3. C.S. Lewis said, ““Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call humble nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility, he will not be thinking of himself at all”. Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
4. Jack Hyles said, “On the essentials, unity. On the nonessentials, liberty. In everything, charity”. Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
5. Charles Spurgeon said, “Satan always hates Christian fellowship; it is his policy to keep Christians apart. Anything which can divide saints from one another he delights in. He attaches far more importance to godly intercourse than we do. Since union is strength, he does his best to promote separation”. Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
6. Looking back at your notes from this week’s sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### Digging Deeper

1. How important is unity to God? Explain. When it comes to unity or disunity what text/s come to mind? What are some biblical examples of unity? Disunity/division? Can a church be effective if there is disunity? Explain.
2. What do the verses say about unity/disunity?

Ps. 133:1; Matt. 12:25; Romans 14:19 & 16:17; 1 Cor. 1:10-14 & 11:17-18; 2 Cor. 13:11; Eph. 4:3; Col. 3:14-15; 2 Tim. 2:14; 1 Pet. 3:8

Is this something that you take seriously? What are the benefits of unity? What are the consequences of disunity? What is the difference between unity and uniformity? Is disagreeing and disunity the same? Explain.

3. There is a distinct difference between the Church at Corinth and the Church at Philippi? What were the differences when it came to unity/disunity? Which one was healthy? Unhealthy? What can we learn from their examples? What do we need to avoid? What had caused disunity within Corinth? How did disunity and division cause the Church at Corinth to be ineffective? Who enjoys the church being divided?

What are some ways to keep the unity of the local church? What do you do to protect the unity of Cross Church? Explain.

4. In Phil. 2, Paul encourages the Philippians to maintain unity and uses Christ emptying Himself as the example of how we demonstrate our concerns for others more than ourselves. When Paul says to have the same mind, what does he mean? How do we do that? What does that look like? Why should we do it? When we are of one mind, what does it produce? What are the benefits?

How does Cross Church demonstrate unity in mentality? How do you contribute to this? Explain.

5. How would you define humility? What does humility look like? What is it not? How does Jesus demonstrate this for us? What does it produce when done correctly?

How was this completely contrary to 1<sup>st</sup> Century Roman culture? How did they view humility? Why did they think it was unacceptable? How does Jesus turn this idea/belief on its head?

At Cross Church how is humility displayed? What are your responsibilities in keeping us humble? What are some things that we could improve to help keep increase humility? What are some things that you could do?

6. When it comes to the needs of others, would consider yourself a sensitive person? Explain. How often do you consider others before yourself? Why should we operate with the principle of preference? How does this rub against our selfishness? Which one is a fruit of the Spirit? How do we need to die to self in order to do this? How is Jesus emptying himself (kenosis) the perfect example for us? What did Jesus give up for us? How did He view our needs above His own? What lengths was Jesus willing to go so that we could be redeemed and reconciled? What form did he take on? What can we learn from His example? What should be our response?

What are some ways to display sympathy and empathy? Is this something that is easy or challenging for you? Explain. What are some ways to improve in this area?

7. How is Jesus the ultimate unifier? When Jesus is the focus, how does He eliminate division, disunity, and discord? How did He tear down all the barriers and obstacles that divides us? Are there any areas in your life that need to be dealt with to ensure unity within the body? If so, what do you need to do next?

How can we demonstrate that We Care?

#### Growing Closer

1. Who is someone you shared the gospel with this week?
2. What have you been reading in your quiet times?
3. What has God been teaching you?