

Series Sermon-based Growth Group
Questions
September 5, 2021

Introductory Discussion:

What insight from Sunday's sermon did you find most helpful, or eye-opening, or troubling (pick any or all of the above)?

Discussion:

1. Hebrew 12:1 reads, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..." Who are the cloud of witnesses and are they telling us?
 - a. What does that tell us about living in community with other believers?
2. Where is the church?
 - a. How does it change your thinking if WE are the church and the church is anywhere we are?
3. Read Hebrews 13:6, "Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices." How important is it for us to be in community?
4. John 17:23 says, "I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me." According to this verse, how will the world see God's love?
5. What are the nonnegotiables (the things one must believe to be a Christian)?
 - a. Can you accept differences on other issues with your Christian brothers and sisters?
6. Galatians 3:28 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave[g] nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." How can we achieve unity despite this diversity?
7. We see another kind of diversity in spiritual gifts: "And God has appointed in the church first

apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?" (1 Corinthians 12:28-30) What point is being made about the gifts here?

8. Paul ends this chapter by saying, "And I will show you a still more excellent way" (verse 31b). That "more excellent way is Love (see Chapter 13). How does being loving create a unity despite our different cultures, ethnicities, styles and gifts?