



Small Group Work Sheet

John 17 - Profane Church

August 4, 2013

Part 1 - Ice Breaker

1. In this passage, Jesus prays for his apostles as well as the future church. In both cases, he prays for unity. Unity is a hot-button topic in our society today, but oftentimes we operate with different definitions of unity. What do you mean when you speak of unity? What is our culture's understanding of unity today? Are these different?

Part 2 - Sermon Review

2. Read John 17:9-11, 18-19. What is the purpose of unity in this passage?
 - a. Do you have any examples of divisions in the church that were counter-productive to the mission of God through his church?
 - b. Unity is most beautiful in the midst of diversity. From your own experience or the experience of those you know, what are some examples of unity in the midst of diversity that has resulted in much fruit for the kingdom of God?

3. Read 1 John 4:7-20. Unity necessitates being united around a certain cause or person. How does this passage enlighten what we should be united around? How does our understanding of God as love impact our understanding of unity in the church in the midst of disagreement and diversity?
4. Read Eph. 4:1-6. Paul lists several different points that are to unite us as Christians. What are they? Do you have a tendency to divide rather than unite on any of these areas? Which area? How can we cultivate a spirit of unity at Faith Church through emphasizing these different areas?
5. Read 1 Cor. 12:12-26. One of the purposes of spiritual gifts in the church is for the unity of believers. How can we use the spiritual gifts that God has given us to promote unity in the church?
6. Read John 17:20-23. Why is unity so crucial for the church?
7. As we transition from being one church in one location to one church in two locations, unity is more important than ever before. What are ways that we (both corporately and individually) can be intentional to cultivate this unity?