

seeking unity in a fractured world

DISCUSSION GUIDE

divided



OPENING UP



We live in a world that is constantly divided on both big issues and small. Give an example of a small issue that has caused a heated division among your family and/or friends. (Examples: Twizzlers v. Red Vines? Toilet Paper Hung Under v. Over? Etc.)

TEXT



Come Together | 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: We are called together in Christ.

- 1. Called to holiness. (v. 1-2)
- 2. Called to unity. (v. 2)
- 3. Called to gracious peacemaking. (v. 3)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In some ways we can expect the world to be divided, but it's devastating for the church to be divided against herself. Have you witnessed worldly divisiveness within the church? Share some examples of how Christians are divided today.
- In 1 Corinthians 1:2, Paul takes time to identify the recipients of his letter. He refers to the Corinthian Christians as "the church of God in Corinth...sanctified in Christ...called to be saints together." What do each of these titles mean? How can we remain the sanctified, set apart people of God and still live in the world?
- In the second half of 1 Corinthians 1:2 Paul speaks of us having a unity with all people in every place who likewise call on the name of Jesus. What do you think makes it difficult to remain unified with other Christians even when we have shared faith in Christ?
- Reread 1 Corinthians 1:3. How can we as Christians fully experience *grace* and *peace*? Having experience grace and peace ourselves, how can we live a life of "gracious peacemaking" to those around us?
- When the church is divided it brings reproach upon the name of Christ. But when we live out the grace we've received and embody peace, we can show the world the power of the gospel to unite. What would it look like for our Life Group to model to others that we are *together in Christ*?

LIFE CHALLENGE



As fellow believers and members of Christ's church, we are called to have unity. Our togetherness helps us stand out from the world around us, which is constantly divided. Paul states it simply in Romans 12:18, "*If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*" Yet, even as Christians, we can find unity difficult.

Remember, peacemaking should start among believers. Think of another Christian that is very different from you. Or another Christian with whom you are not as unified as you should be. How can you extend grace to them this week and promote peace in your relationship?

CLOSING PRAYER



Lord, help me to identify the areas of my life where I have allowed division to creep in and hurt my relationships with other believers. Show me how I can extend the grace you've shown me to the people in those relationships and how I can be a peacemaker. Thank you for the unity we have in Christ. Amen