

STUDY NOTES

A SERMON *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Unity: Table Fellowship” on 8/6/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 17:20-26

WHAT IS BIBLICAL UNITY?

Biblical unity can be seen in the triune Godhead. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all distinct persons of the trinity, yet they are united in relationship with each other as one God. This is the sort of unity that God desires from his people. When kind of biblical unity is visible within the church, those outside the church take notice.

When the church is truly united, it is actually a public witness to the work of Christ.

- *What kind of witness do you see the church to be right now?*

HOW IS BIBLICAL UNITY PERVERTED?

When we look at the stories of history, we can see that history is usually narrated from the perspective of the “winners”. The bible flips this narrative by telling much of it’s story from the perspective of the underclass. If we only listen to the privileged and powerful then our idea of unity is perverted.

If we want Biblical unity, then we have to listen to both the powerful and the powerless.

- *Talk about some examples of how the bible’s narrative point of view is flipped from how history is normally told. What does the realization do within your heart?*

HOW DO WE ADVANCE BIBLICAL UNITY?

We can look forward to a New Heavens and New Earth that will be extremely diverse and perfectly unified because Christ’s work reconciled us to God and to each other. While we wait, we have to remember that unity isn’t advanced by making people look like ourselves. Unity is advanced when people look more like Jesus. It has been said that Jesus ate his way through the Gospels.. When we eat together, we share our stories and unity begins to build. Jesus doesn’t expect us to do something that he wouldn’t do. **Read Mark 2:15-17.**

- *Talk about the kind of people with whom Jesus ate.*
- *How have you seen that eating together builds relationships?*
- *How often do you eat with someone who is different than you in class, ethnicity, race, age, or life stage?*
- *What are some things that our group can do to eat with people who do not look like us?*
- *Pray with each other for strength to live in biblical unity.*