

STUDY NOTES

THAT THEY MAY BE ONE

A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “One in Christ” on 10/1/17 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 15:1-12

FRUIT OF THE VINE

All followers of Jesus are all a part of the same vine—Jesus Christ. According to Jesus in this passage, if we are in Christ we will bear fruit. But what is this fruit that he is looking for? The Apostle Paul can help us with that in Galatians 5:22:

“The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithful, gentleness and self-control.”

These fruit are present in our lives and they should manifest themselves in words and deeds.

- *The word abide means to “stay in”. What do you think it means to stay in (or abide) in Christ?*
- *How should abiding in Christ lead to the fruit that Paul talks about in Galatians?*

ONENESS IN THE CHURCH FIRST

First and primarily, we need to both love and be united with our brothers and sisters in Christ. From there, we can turn those in our city. If we can't love our own brothers and sisters in Christ, how are we going to love those in the world?

- *In what ways do you see the Church forgetting to love those within the Church let alone those outside the Church?*

The Church has struggled with this since day one. The Jewish Christians and the non-Jewish Christians couldn't initially find unity in Christ. Paul addresses both groups separately.

To the Jewish people in Ephesus—**Read Ephesians 2:13-16**

Also, to the Gentiles in Rome—**Read Romans 11:17-21**

- *Why do you think it is difficult for two parties to patiently listen to another?*

UNITY IN CHRIST

Paul doesn't command the Jewish people and Gentile people to ignore their differences, but he commands them to unite under Christ without hierarchy. **Read Galatians 3:28-29.** While the Jew/Gentile divide isn't completely analogous to what's happening in our country, many of its principles can still be applied.

In Christ, the color of our skin or the stripes on our flag cannot be what unites us the most. Our brotherhood and sisterhood must be first.

- *How should the blood of Christ unite us in our differences, not eliminate our differences?*

SUFFERING TO BECOME ONE

We are quick to label people, but when we do so, we strip people of their humanity and their story. We should seek to listen and try to understand another person rather than labeling them. That won't be easy. In fact, it will be hard. But that's okay! Jesus says that the Father prunes even those that bear fruit. The vine must suffer to make good fruit. This means that we will have to empty ourselves of our pride.

If Christ suffered to make us one then we must suffer to become one.

- *What are some things that you've learned about seeking to understand someone else?*
- *How have you been labeled in your life? How did that create shame in you?*
- *Why is recognizing someone else's humanity so important when trying to understand that person?*
- *Pray for unity.*