

STUDY NOTES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “The What, How and Why of Unity” on 4/29/18 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: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

IF NOTHING ELSE, THEN UNITY

Paul learned from Jesus the importance of unity when Jesus prayed that his followers would be united as one. Unity does not mean we have identical life-styles, personalities, races, or ethnicities because unity does not mean uniformity.

Unity occurs when we have the same Lord and loves.

- *How do you see culture calling people to uniformity, not necessarily unity?*

HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST

Paul talks about achieving unity by having the mind of Christ three times in this passage. The mind incorporates will and emotions into a comprehensive outlook—which affects our overall attitude. The way we receive the mind of Christ is through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit allows us to process this world in the way God does.

Christian unity is supernatural—the work of God, not man.

- *Why will true unity only be achieved through the work of the Holy Spirit?*

UNITY THROUGH HUMILITY

Humility means that we view others as more significant than ourselves. This can't be a false humility, but a humility that has a healthy view of self and then of others as more significant than oneself. We will never see oneness without mutual submission.

In the Church, the concerns of others become the concerns of all.

- *How have you acted in false humility?*
- *Why would discerning the concerns of Christ be important when we hear the concerns of all?*
- *What do you think living in mutual submission to others looks like?*

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

When Jesus came to earth, he never stopped being God but gave up his rights to assert his status or privilege. Jesus was equal with God, but he emptied himself of the privilege that came with it when he took on human form. Jesus illustrates how we can both *relinquish* privilege and *use* privilege to serve others by healing, feeding, defending others, and forgiving sin. The dramatic distance Jesus traveled from the “form of God” to “the death of the cross” dramatically reveals the servant-mind that each believer is to have.

Privilege isn't the problem; it's how we chose to use it.

- *How does Jesus's example speak to you about the dramatic servant-mind that we are all supposed to have?*
- *What could it look like for you to use your privilege for the good of others?*
- *Pray with each other to have the servant-mind of Christ.*