

Some Assembly Required

Week #1

Week #1: One Body - As Paul begins his discussion of the “body of Christ,” he reminds us of the big picture. Baptism. Spirit. Spiritual thirst quenched by the gospel. What the Church has in common is exponentially bigger than our differences. Therefore, we celebrate everyone, no matter what their wiring, quirks, or personality, who calls upon Jesus’ name.

- 1 Corinthians 12:12 - *Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.*

“There’s no **I** in Team...but there is a **me**.”

- Ephesians 4:1 - *I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*
- Ephesians 4:4,5 - *4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism.*
- Hebrews 2:14,15 - *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*
- Hebrews 4:15 - *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.*
- Hebrews 2:11 - *Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.*

Jesus’ uniqueness **unites** us.

- Ephesians 4:2 - *2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*
- Ephesians 4:3 - *3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*
- Ephesians 4:4-6 - *4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

What **unites** us > my **uniqueness**.

Points to Ponder

1) Reread Ephesians 4:1-6. Then answer the following questions:

- How has individualism and 21st century American culture impacted your mindset when it comes to elevating the individual over the whole?
- Which do you find it easier to do: 1) celebrate what brings us together (unity) or 2) identify what makes you different? When it's the second one, what are the dangers that arise for us as Christians and as a church?
- How hard is it at times to strive to keep the unity that we have as believers? What makes it hard for you personally?
- As you consider your 2018 goals and resolutions, what 1 way we will you be intentional to celebrate what unites us as Christians? In what practical way will you carry that out?

Homework: 1 Peter 4