

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Facing the Covid Challenge - Part 2

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Introduction

The body of Christ is made up of people from different tribes, nations and backgrounds, who hold varying points of view. Last week, Pastor Dale encouraged us to be respectful of those with different viewpoints. In Ephesians 4, Paul talks about keeping the unity of the body of Christ in the Spirit. This is not an easy task, especially when external factors promote division. Jesus himself prayed for believers to have unity (John 17), both with fellow believers and with God, so that the world can experience God's love.

In a world that is currently divided by different positions on vaccination, we need to ask ourselves what is more important: being right at the expense of our unity, or prioritising our unity and reflecting Jesus to the world?

Read

Ephesians 4:1-8

Discuss

1. What does it mean to live a life worthy of your calling? How does this look for you? In what ways have you made every effort to live like this?
2. Read Ephesians 4:2-3. What are the characteristics that Paul teaches us to have especially in the midst of a disagreement? Which characteristic is the most difficult for you to apply?
3. Read verse 3. We are not called to create unity. Instead, we are to keep the unity that God has established through Jesus. How might it be difficult to be at peace when we are facing a diversity of opinions?
4. Pastor Dale says that "Unity is not the same as uniformity, and diverse thought and capacity is not divisive." What is your understanding of this statement? Do you think it is easy to grasp this concept in our society today? Why or why not?

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5. Read John 17:20-24. Who is Jesus making these requests for (verse 20)?
What will unity amongst Jesus' followers accomplish?
6. How can this Life Group practice and maintain unity?

Respond

Keeping the body of Christ united will help us, as individuals and as a community, to become the testimony of Jesus. We cannot always be in agreement with everyone, but in the face of diverse opinions we need to remember to uphold the value of the other person. What can you do this week that goes above and beyond to promote unity in the body of Christ?