

HIGHLANDS SMALL GROUPS

BECOMING ONE

Big Idea

This week, Pastor Chris addressed the division we have been experiencing in our nation, our state, and even in our church over the last few weeks. Ephesians 4:3-6 tells us to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” As a church, we are committed to living this out. We know our battle is not with flesh and blood, but with the evil at work in the spiritual realms. With an ever-growing understanding of what divides us, we need to begin to focus on how we can come together.

There are three distinct things we need to do as we work to become “one.” First, we must recognize that we have one enemy. John 10:10 says that satan comes “to steal, kill, and destroy.” We can never truly reconcile with one another until we acknowledge the instigator of injustice and division himself. HE is our enemy—not those who are different from “us.” Next, we must have one heart. We can only be united in love if we take the time to listen to our neighbors’ stories and lament their pain. When we are quick to listen, slow to speak, and commit to bearing one another’s burdens, we will love as Christ loved us. Lastly, we are called to one purpose. More than ever, our world needs a Church that is united in its efforts to show the love of Christ. If we can operate as “one,” we will truly be able to make a difference!

Discussion Questions

- When you think about people who have different worldviews than you, do you think in terms of “us vs. them”? How does acknowledging that you have “one enemy” change your perspective on how to interact with people who are different from you?
- The word “quarantine” correlates to a 40-day period, found throughout the Bible, during which God softened and stripped the hearts of His people. In what ways have you felt Him molding you in this season?
- To have one heart, we must make every effort to learn and feel what others are experiencing. What’s one practical way that you can do that this week?

Prayer Focus

God, thank You for being the perfect example of unity. Though our world is hurting and broken, we are thankful that Your Word shows us how to become one. Help us to remember that we are fighting a spiritual battle, and enable us to love our neighbors deeply as we learn and lament. Keep us united in Your Spirit as we pursue the purposes that You prepared for us long ago.

Next Steps

Think of someone you know who is different from you. Invite them to coffee this week, and ask them to share their story. Simply listen, and put yourself in their shoes. Lament their pain with them.

Leader Tip

Follow up with anyone who expressed that they were hurting during the last group meeting. Continue to express your support, and always point them back to Jesus.

