

The Call to the Great Community!

Lesson #2: "The Church is One in Christ!"

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Our new sermon series, "The Call to the Great Community," is a series of discipleship teachings about the body of Christ and our call to be fellow members of the body of Christ. This is an important call to answer for us individually and corporately for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ (why He came!) for the glory of God. *You have a purpose for belonging!*

The big idea from the first teaching last week was that the church is God's idea; not mine nor yours! From the Scriptures, we learned that the church is the Body of Christ because we exist for the mission of Jesus to the glory of God. The mission of Jesus is the great rescue mission; He came from Heaven to Earth to show us the way to the Father; this has always been God's Plan A; therefore, the church exists for the mission – to make Jesus known and to continue His mission, as His body for the glory of God. *We have a purpose for belonging!*

Finally, last week you were invited to find unity with your fellow member by participating in the 150-day Pray the Psalms Discipleship Challenge. Today is Day #7, which means we are praying through Psalm 7. I pray you are finding it meaningful to do this just as you found it meaningful to read through the New Testament together. *Belonging doesn't happen by accident!*

Today's big idea: The Church is One in Christ!

There are three Scriptures we are going to walk through together so that we can anchor today's big idea in God's Word and work out its implications in our everyday discipleship:

Truth + Application = Transformation!

Romans 12:4-5, "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

+ *How can we demonstrate our unity within our diverse functionality?*

Ephesians 4:1-6, "Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all."

+ *How should we treat one another to preserve the unity of the Spirit?*

John 17:20-26, "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

+ *How do we pray for one another to see the fulfillment of John 17 in us?*

We are one in Christ! Keep praying through the Psalms so that we experience unity in prayer. There is so much more to learn.