



**Opening Question:**

**When is the last time you simply listened to someone with a different opinion than your own, without trying to share your own thoughts or change their mind?**

***As we talk through our study this evening, please refrain from mentioning certain parties or specific politicians, and simply stick to the foundation we as believers can rest on as we navigate the current political climate.***

***Read: John 13:34-35; 1 Peter 3:8; Ephesians 4:1-3***

If we are unified, as described in these passages, does it mean all believers must agree on everything? Why or why not?

**Christian unity could be described as a spiritual grace that comes from within and from time spent with God, a cooperation for the sake of the gospel in the midst of diversity. By contrast, uniformity is conforming due to external pressures.**

In Ephesians 4:1-3 what are the spiritual characteristics described that help us maintain a holy unity? How might a believer develop these characteristics?

Jesus says that as he has loved us, we must love each other. How has Jesus loved each of us?



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Jesus says that as he has loved us, we must love each other. How has Jesus loved each of us?

How should John 13:34-35 shape the way we love our brothers and sisters in Christ?

How might the church stand out in the world if we practiced having loving, grace-filled conversations with those who disagree with us, striving for Christian unity, as opposed to uniformity?

What step do you need to take this week to live more at peace with those around you and cultivate a spirit of unity within you?

What can we learn about God from these passages?

Is there anything you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to look at more closely?

**Prayer:**

Father, thank you for being a God of unconditional love, mercy, and grace. Lord, our country, and even many of our churches, have become filled with division and contempt. Let it not be so with us. Help us to listen well, to love sacrificially, and to choose your peace in the midst of diversity of belief and opinion. As we abide in you, develop in us the spiritual traits we need to live together in holy unity. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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