

ONE: UNITED IN CHRIST

PREGATHERING DEVOTIONS

Study #2:

WHAT IS DISUNITY?

READ

Philippians 2:1-11

STUDY

- ♦ If we look at the world around us and see how things work, then we'll notice that people and companies are infatuated with unity. People will go to conferences to learn how to bring unity into their families. Schools have creative ways to have unity among their students through themes, games, or curriculum. Companies will spend a day here and a staff meeting there to make sure there is unity within their organization. Why is unity so important to these people, places, and organizations?
- ♦ Make a list of things that would happen if there was disunity in a family, school, and business.
- ♦ Is Christianity different, or not, from families, schools, or businesses? If there can be disunity within Christianity, what would that look like? How have you seen disunity within your own church or youth group?
- ♦ Look at Philippians 2:3. Paul gives us a way to bring unity into the church. What does he think is the cure for disunity? How does this demonstrate the Gospel (read verses 5-11)? In what ways could we do this as individuals or as a group?

Take some time this week and in the weeks to come to bring unity between you and the people around you. The sins of pride and selfishness lead us to think of ourselves first. When we think of ourselves instead of others we have disunity with them, and this can lead to disunity within the body of Christ. Take deep consideration of the people in your life and think about those that you are struggling with. They may be in this room, they may live in your house with you, or they may be someone at school or work. Work toward unity with them; think of them and their situation first. Remember that what you're doing for them is like what God did for you through Christ Jesus.

PRAYER

Take some time to list prayer requests. Please pray for each request. When you are finished with those pray this followed by the Lord's Prayer:

Father in heaven, there is disunity among Your people. We are sorry for the disunity that we have created with our selfishness. Help us to be more like You and think about others first. Let us try to understand their situations and be a friend to them. Your light shines from us because Christ wasn't selfish. He was willing to share His life by dying and rising from the dead so that we can be forgiven and have everlasting life. We pray in Your precious name. Amen.