

The Holy Spirit Creates Community



For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body ... and we were all given the one Spirit to drink (1 Cor 12:13)

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. (1 Cor 12:12-13)

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor 13:14)

DEFINING QUALITY 1: UNITY

10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Cor 1:10)

What is the standard for unity in the church?

Why is it so important to God that His people are completely united?

DEFINING QUALITY 1: UNITY

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one - ²³ I in them and you in me - so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

(John 17:20-23)

How would you summarise this prayer of Jesus?

Why did Jesus desire this level of unity for his followers?

What effect does such a display of unity have on the world? Why?

DEFINING QUALITY 1: UNITY

³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:3-6)

What role of the Holy Spirit is described here?

How does the Spirit bring about unity in the church?

DEFINING QUALITY 1: UNITY

Reflection

What could we do better as a church to be completely united through the Spirit, in a way that is noticed by the world?

DEFINING QUALITY 2: LOVE

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

(John 13:34-35)

What standard of love for one another does Jesus set for us?

How did Jesus demonstrate his love for his disciples?

Why is it so important for us to demonstrate this extent of love for one another?

How easy is it for us to love in this way?

DEFINING QUALITY 2: LOVE

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:5)

What does God give us, according to this passage?

Why is this really good news for us in the light of John 13:34-35?

What is required from us to enable God to fill us with His love and Spirit?

DEFINING QUALITY 2: LOVE

Reflection

What could we do better as a church to love one another with the love of Jesus, in a way that is noticed by the world?

DEFINING QUALITY 3: SERVICE

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!

(Philippians 2:5-8)

The word “mindset” refers to the way we view the world and our role in it. How would you summarise the mindset of Jesus?

Why is having the right mindset so important for serving one another?

As a servant, Jesus humbled himself and laid down his life for those he served. What is the significance of this for us?

How would you explain the relationship between love and service?

DEFINING QUALITY 3: SERVICE

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (1 Cor 12:4-7)

What role of the Spirit in creating a church of servants is described here?

What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

Later on in the chapter, Paul stresses the need for unity in the context of the diversity of the spiritual gifts. Why is it important to always keep unity and diversity closely tied to each other in the church?

DEFINING QUALITY 3: SERVICE

Reflection

What could we do better as a church to serve one another, in a way that is noticed by the world?

26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father - the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father - he will testify about me. **27** And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. (John 15:26-27)

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13)

16 Rejoice always, **17** pray continually, **18** give thanks in all circumstances ; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **19** Do not quench the Spirit. (1 Thess 5:16-19)



That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched - this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

1 John 1:1