

## **GNCOMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE**

SERMON SERIES: “**REALATIONSHIPS**”

SERMON TITLE: “**UNITY**”

DATE PREACHED: **SUNDAY, JULY 8TH 2018**

PREACHER: **CODY BALCH**



### •✎ SERMON IN A SENTENCE:

“Very different people who choose to UNIFY around Jesus will make a very big difference.”

### **WARM UP QUESTIONS:** (choose the ones you think will fit best)

- ☞ How would you describe the state (or status) of unity/division in our country and world today?
- ☞ Why do you think we are such a divided people?
- ☞ Do you feel as though the church is any different in regards to unity or division from the rest of the country? Why or why not?
- ☞ Why do you feel that it is important to for the church to be unified together?
- ☞ What are the implications if the church is splintered and divided?

◆ Facilitator NOTE: As you prepare ahead of time, look through the passages/questions below to help yourself prioritize the things that you definitely want to cover with the time you have available. Try to keep the studies to around an hour for the kids/kids helpers sake.

**1 Corinthians 1:10** — “**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.”

- ☞ Is what Paul is asking us to do possible? Why or why not?
- ☞ In reality, what would it look like for brothers and sisters in Christ to “agree with one another in what you say”?
- ☞ What could happen if a church was “perfectly united in mind and thought”?

**Philippians 1:27-28a;2:1-2** — “**27** Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the Gospel **28** without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you...**1** Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, **2** then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.”

- 🗨️ What would it look like for you to “conduct yourself in a manner that is worthy of the Gospel of Christ” no matter what happens in this life?
- 🗨️ What does this section of verses 27+28 mean to you and what imagery does it bring to your mind? “I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the Gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.”
- 🗨️ How powerful in unity? Can you think of any examples in this world where, when people united together, they were able to do amazing things? (Revolutionary War; Civil Rights Movement; Rescuing of the 13 people from the cave in Asia)

**John 17:20-23** — “**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.”

- 🗨️ What do you hear in the heart of Jesus as He prays this prayer for us right before He is crucified?
- 🗨️ If this is something on Jesus heart and mind right before being killed, how important do you think this might be to Him and why do you think this is so important to Him?

🗨️ What if all your kids hated each other and never spoke or spent time together? Would that honor you as a parent, or dishonor you? How much more does division dishonor Jesus and His unifying death, burial, and resurrection?

### **TAKE THIS HOME WITH YOU “TAKEAWAY”:**

- ☀️ How are you actively trying to promote unity in Good News Church?
- ☀️ How are you actively investing in the brothers and sisters that God has put around you in your life in order to build up their faith?

❖ Close in prayer.

### **MATCHING THEME IDEAS FOR THE KID’S LESSON:**

- I’d encourage a worship time if possible (youtube works great {Lifetree Kids}).
- Ask them if they have any things in their life that they need Jesus’ help with, and then pray for the requests of the group.
- And feel free to ask any of the kids if they’d like to say a prayer for the group.
- Try to do a few “unifying” activities where they are given a challenge or a task and are only able to accomplish it by working together. (Examples: the human chain that touches from wall to wall; Red-Rover-Red-Rover showing strength in numbers; Maybe have them lift something that can only be lifted together.)
- Read this from **Philippians 1:27-28**: “**27** Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the Gospel **28** without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.”
  - What do they think about this passage? What is the Apostle Paul trying to say?