

HEALTHY CHURCH 2: UNITY AND DIVERSITY

TWO QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WHILE WAITING TO BEGIN...

- Why is unity important to the local church?
- Why is unity hard to achieve?

1. GOD'S PLAN IS TO UNITE DIVERSE PEOPLE WITHIN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Ephesians 2:11-22

2. GOD'S PLAN IS FOR A DEEP UNITY AMONG DIVERSE PEOPLE

Ephesians 2:11-22

Deep unity: a new humanity... fellow citizens... adopted children

A unity which overcomes...

- (a) Boundaries of ethnicity:**
- (b) Boundaries of age:**
- (c) Boundaries of economics**
- (d) Boundaries of class:**
- (e) Boundaries of personality:**
- (f) Boundaries of cultural background and preferences:**

3. THE FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIAN UNITY-IN-DIVERSITY: ONLY THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Ephesians 2:11-22

4. GOD'S PURPOSE: THROUGH THE UNITED LOCAL CHURCH THE GOSPEL WILL BE REVEALED

Ephesians 3:6-11

5. HOW DO WE CULTIVATE UNITY IN DIVERSITY?

(a) It doesn't mean organisational unity at the expense of truth.

(i) Unity-in-diversity is worked out primarily in the local church

(ii) Unity is only based on the truth of Scripture (see 2:20, 4:11ff)

(b) It doesn't mean unity in the Gospel *and* in something else.

(c) Pursue "gospel-revealing" community.

Do you have Christian friends who are not like you?

How can you spend more time with Christian brethren who are not like you?

A question to ask someone who is not like you:

"Is there anything that I should know or understand better?"

(d) Make sacrifices for the sake of unity.