

RECAP

As you reflect on this past week, did you sense Holy Spirit prompting you to be a “billboard of unity” in a concrete/practical way?

Did you encounter a situation or an invitation to be an example of unity amid differences?

IDEA 1

As disciples of Jesus, we need to move from immaturity to Spiritual maturity as we grow to be more like our big brother Jesus - conformed to the character of Christ.

The opposite of maturity isn't immaturity its disunity

Our spiritual maturity is tied to our pursuit of unity - they are inseparable - like salt and pepper, peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, tacos, and Tuesdays for some reason. If we put this idea in the negative - We grow immature when we pursue disunity

What would be some core identifiers of spiritual immaturity and maturity as a group?

Do you agree with Brian's statement that 'maturity isn't immaturity, it's disunity'? Why or why not?

What would you say is the most challenging part about maintaining unity? Both in the church at large and your local context?

IDEA 2

In Brian's message, he noted that a picture of a life that leads to disunity is (1) being like children, (2) being tossed and blown by new teaching, and (3) being tricked by clever lies.

Which one are you most tempted to adopt from the list above and why?

How does being tossed by new teaching and clever lies fracture communities?

In what ways does the posture of humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance combat disunity?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Group Devotional Reading

As you finish your discussion on the sermon, **take some time to read Ephesians 4:1-16 out loud**. As someone slowly reads it, have each member listen for a word or phrase God highlights for them. Consider having one or two people share what God is highlighting. Then, spend a few minutes in prayerful thanksgiving. If you would like to engage with this passage in a deeper way throughout the week, you could use the [Weekly Audio Reflection](#) on our website.

If you would like to engage with this passage in a deeper way throughout the week, you could use the [Weekly Audio Reflection](#) on our website.

PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

Brian posed these questions: But what about truth? What about the important issues? How will people know what we stand for? When we are living (in love) this way, growing in maturity, we have a platform for sharing the truth, and people will hear us more clearly.

As you go about your week, prayerfully consider how truth can be demonstrated and communicated to those we disagree with. Consider these steps below as a possible guide:

1. **Listen empathically:** Maturity means being slow to speak and quick to listen.
2. **Check one's heart:** Maturity means wrestling with hidden motives and moving towards humility and love as the primary motive to speak truth.
3. **Thoughtful Speech:** Maturity recognizes that truth is only receptive with a gentle posture of compassion.
4. **Bookending Prayer:** Maturity recognizes that truth communicated in love requires God's counsel and His work to soften the hearts and minds of others.