



I LOVE MY CHURCH



EXPLORING THE CONNECTIONS THAT MAKE US A SPIRITUAL FAMILY



MORE THAN JUST A WEEKLY EVENT OR SIMPLE TRADITIONS



THE CHURCH IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD

Week Two | Unity

Key Things You Heard

- The Social Dilemma - Algorithms assure the end of civil discourse.
- Christians set an example in the early church.
- We have a long way to go, but the church is once again in a position to show the world the way to unity.

Pray

Heavenly Father, The Church is the hope of the world. You are the answer to all things. Help us learn how to be the church. Help us to strive for unity inside the church so that those outside the church will know that Jesus was sent from God to save us. Let each of us become so committed to the Lord that we willingly and often use our spiritual gifts for the glory of God and for the sake of unity. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Tweetable Moments

- "Spiritual gifts are only spiritual when they benefit someone else."
- "Be funnels, not buckets."

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Questions for Conversation

Icebreaker: Name one of your favorite things about each person in your group.

- Read 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11. For many, when it comes to discussions on spiritual gifts, we want to rush to what the spiritual gifts are and what is mine. This is unfortunate because the starting point is always what God’s purpose is for all things in our life. Read or re-read the above passage and identify all you can about God’s purpose, who gives the gift, and what the gifts are to be used for.
- Mark Moore made the statement, “Spiritual gifts are only spiritual when they benefit someone else.” Why is it important for us to understand this? How does the church benefit when we live this out in our lives? What would change if every believer in the local church lived in their giftedness? What would change in the world?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. How does the proper use of spiritual gifts impact unity in the church? Why might not living in your giftedness cause division or disunity? Re-read verse 26. What are the implications of this verse for the church? Is this verse lived out most effectively by an organized effort or by individuals seeing needs? Explain. Give some examples of when a corporate response yields great ministry. Give examples of when an individual response provides greater opportunity.

Now Go Do It (resources and next steps)

Challenge: As a group, discuss what needs you have seen that could be met by your group. Also, discuss what God might do if you decide to meet those needs. Make a plan and carry it out.

Spiritual gift inventories may help you narrow down your potential gifts. A word of caution, though, they are not the end-all in figuring out what your gifts are. They can be used for information, but you should also not let yourself be boxed in by a survey. Mark Moore said this week, “Walk into a room, look around, identify what needs to be done that you would enjoy doing with excellence. That is your spiritual gift.” But if you’d like to take a survey on spiritual gifts, here’s one you can try. (<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/gifts-survey/>)