



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

BREAKING THE ICE

Talk about an example of a unified team you were on at some point in your life. How did that unity make you feel?

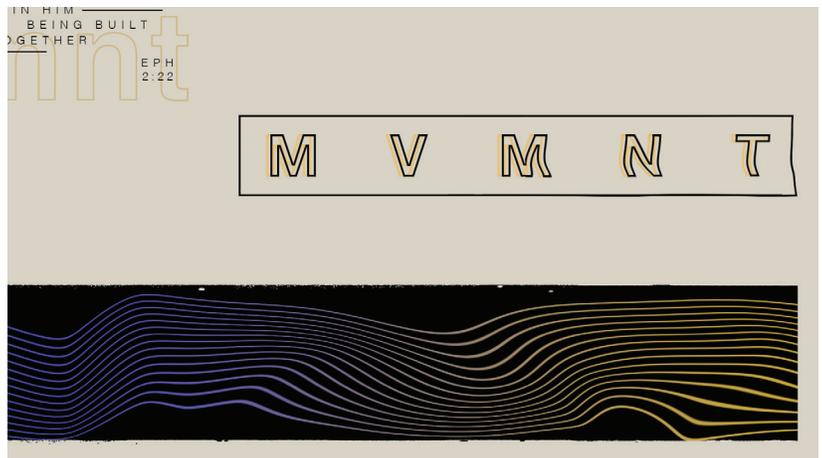
Have you ever been in a group that did not feel unified? Explain.

MAIN CONTENT

This week, as we continue to study Ephesians, we move from hearing what God has done for us to what we need to do in response.

In the first 3 chapters of the book, Paul has reminded the church in Ephesus of what God has done for them and who they are in Him. In chapter 4, Paul starts talking about keeping the movement going. In order to do that, he says, you must have unity.

At this time in Ephesus, there were all kinds of people and races: Jews, Gentiles, Romans, Greeks, rich, poor, free and slaves. It was a multicultural, multiracial, multiethnic city, a melting pot of all kinds of people. The one thing the church had in common is that they all came together to worship Jesus.



1. What is the most diverse group you have ever been a part of? Explain the dynamic of that group.

The Ephesians had a oneness as they came together to follow Jesus. God wants us to have that oneness, too – it is a part of our mission in life. Oneness doesn't just mean that we are getting along and aren't fighting. True oneness happens when where we are all equal and we don't see the difference between race, color, wealth, age or income. When we have oneness with others, it's a reflection of how God sees us and is an example of Him. If we get oneness right, it can lead to others finding Jesus.

JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION



@CROSSPOINT_TV



@CROSSPOINT_TV



/CROSSPOINT.TV



@CROSSPOINT_TV



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

2. Describe a time when you have experienced true oneness.

Oneness is unity – unity with God and unity with each other. God rescues us and is united with us.

Read Ephesians 4:1-6

God calls us to keep the unity. We are unified with Him through the free gift of Jesus. We know that unity isn't earned; it is given to us. God wants us to be unified with Him so we can share unity with our family, community group, friends, neighbors, those we serve with and those on our team.

We have to actively keep unity. Keeping unity can mean shutting down gossip, standing up for one another when it may not be convenient for you or taking care of each other when it may not be easy.

3. Where do you feel like you can actively keep unity in your life?

Paul gives us 4 qualities that help us actively keep community on our lives: humility, gentleness, patience and oneness in Christ.

Humility is thinking of yourself less. The opposite of humility is pride. We all struggle with pride, living every day for ourselves and not thinking about others.

Humble people celebrate others, while pride can have a hard time celebrating others. Pride can break down the relationships we have with others and the unity we are called to share with them.

4. Where or with whom do you need to practice humility in your life?

To keep unity, we need gentleness. Gentleness is kindness in the presence of unkind people, it's power bridled, and it's seeing everyone for their stories and not their imperfections. Jesus sees us all, the good and the bad. He still loves us, cares for us and shows us gentleness because He knows we are not perfect.

5. Where or with whom do you need to show gentleness in your life?

To keep unity, we need to have patience. We live in a fast-paced society – fast food, fast coffee, fast Internet – we want everything done 2 minutes ago. But God doesn't always work fast.

JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION

 @CROSSPOINT_TV  @CROSSPOINT_TV  /CROSSPOINT.TV  @CROSSPOINT_TV



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

God wants to change us because we are a work in progress. A work in progress can take time. If we wait and allow Him to do the work in us, we will fulfill the process He has for us.

6. Are there any situations in your life where you want to see change?
Are you practicing patience in those situations?
Are you asking God to change you, or asking Him to change others?

To keep unity, we need to remember our oneness with Christ. We can have a tendency to underestimate what happens in smaller, unified settings, like settings between friends and neighbors. Times where we can talk about God and share our faith with others.

7. Where do you need to work to keep the unity?

Maybe you need to lay down your pride and say you're sorry or forgive someone who has wronged you. Maybe you don't have to be right and just let the argument go. Maybe it's time to listen and celebrate someone and not compare a win in your life to the win they are experiencing. Maybe it's time to just be a good friend, neighbor, co-worker, spouse, sibling, or child and just celebrate whom God made you and others to be and His love for us. When we can look past ourselves and look to the one who saved us, we can have unity with Him and share it with those who need it most.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank You for giving us the opportunity to have oneness with You and with others. Show us where our pride, busyness and lack of understanding toward those around us keep us from sharing Your love with them. Help us create oneness and unity with those with whom we are surrounded, for Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.

JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION



@CROSSPOINT_TV



@CROSSPOINT_TV



/CROSSPOINT.TV



@CROSSPOINT_TV



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

ACTION STEP

Practice unity this week by checking your heart for pride, selfishness and busyness. Make time to: make a phone call to someone you need to apologize to or forgive, care for someone where you won't expect anything in return, or slow down to ask God where you need to share unity with others.

As a group, you can practice unity with churches all over Middle Tennessee by planning to attend the Surrounded Event at Bridgestone Arena this Thursday, August 30th at 7PM. All details can be found at www.surroundevent.com

JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION



@CROSSPOINT_TV



@CROSSPOINT_TV



/CROSSPOINT.TV



@CROSSPOINT_TV