

DIGDEEPER

January 17, 2016

Oneness in the Church by Dr. Richard Rogers

Ephesians 4:2-6 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

Oneness is the theme of our new life in Christ. We are first made one with God through Jesus Christ. Then, we are made one with his body, the church. But living as one with others isn't easy because it is the exact opposite of what our sinful nature wants. Oneness in the church is a miracle worked by God as he gives his people new hearts, new characteristics, and new commands. God lays the foundation for oneness that we spend our life walking on.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

Where is one place in this world where you feel like you really belong? What makes you feel that way?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- What things do Christians all around the world share in common?
- How have you been harmed by someone who acted from their own selfish desire instead of doing what God wanted for them and for others? When have you hurt someone in the same way?
- If we build character and habits over time, how can you start building humility, gentleness, and patience? What can you do daily to start developing these qualities?
- Why do you think Paul begins the second half of the book (which is filled with practical commands) with a discussion on unity in the church?
- What is something you've done recently to build or maintain unity at University Heights?

GO DEEPER

- Watch as JI Packer explains [why we should take unity seriously](#) and how it can be a source of joy for us.
- In a world marked by constant division, the church is instead marked by oneness. Vernon Pierre explains [why this difference is necessary and critical](#).
- There's no "they" in the body of Christ because they are "we". Let Gloria Furman help remind you of [the joy to be had in unity](#) (especially between ethnicities) and why it's a gospel issue.
- If the church is Christ's body, then why is there conflict in it? Might it be that conflict, when handled properly, is a means of making us look more like Jesus. Jon Bloom [proposes this exact idea](#) and offers some thoughts on how we should respond.

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Think of the group of people at University Heights who you are least united with. Consider the one type of person whose differences or weaknesses tend to frustrate you most. Spend time reading Ephesians 4 and prayerfully asking God how you can pursue oneness with them.