

Paul points to their disunity as a sign of their immaturity (3:1-3).
What do you think about that?

Paul compares the community of believers to a building. What is the foundation? Who is building the structure?

What does Paul say will happen to the one who causes division? How seriously does God seem to take this? Why do you think that is?

REFLECT

As a part of the OCC family, how connected do you feel you are? What benefits have you received from that connection? What benefits have you yet to realize?

Are there ways you could deepen your connection to your church family? What are they? Share them with each other.

RESPOND

To help us all mature in Christ, God has made belonging an essential part of believing. Look for ways this week that you can deepen your sense of belonging to God's family (spend time with a fellow life group member, get to know a new Outlooker) and see what it does to the strength of your believing (your faith, joy, and confidence in God).



OUTLOOK
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Our vision is simple: to follow Jesus by connecting, growing, serving, and going. We are only fulfilling our vision as a church to the extent this is happening in your life and in mine.

Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

We are connecting...

John 15:4-5 (page 739)

What does it mean to connect?
+ It means believing Jesus and obeying Him in baptism.
+ It means becoming a member of the church.
+ It means joining a life group.

Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

in unity...

Ephesians 4:13

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

What does it mean to live in unity?
+ It means enjoying the diversity of our congregation.
+ It means working together toward worthy goals.
+ It means believing the best in each other.

Romans 14:19 (Ph)

So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.

1 Corinthians 1:10

Let there be real harmony among you so there won't be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

Martin Luther
Farewell to those who want an entirely pure and purified church. This is plainly wanting no church at all.

...and love.

John 13:35

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Andrew Murray

When the world sees a church from which selfishness is banished, then it will acknowledge the divine mission of Christ because he has wrought such a wonder, a community of men who truly and heartily love one another.

What does it mean to live with love?
+ It means forgiving each other.
+ It means serving each other.
+ It means caring for each other.

1 Peter 3:8 (NLT)

Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.

onward in unity and love

LIFE GROUP STUDY

RELATE

Describe a time in your life in which you experienced the thrill of true unity with others, perhaps during a crisis or while on a sports team or at work on a huge project.

Was there a time in your life that you experienced profound love from others? What created that experience? How did it feel? Do you feel it now?

What principle, insight or idea from this sermon was especially important for you?

READ

1 Corinthians 1:10-17 and 3:1-17

In these passages we see that the community of believers in Corinth was divided regarding which leader was most worth following. What can cause divisions today in a community of believers?

Why do you think Paul made such a strong appeal for unity (1:10)?

In what way is Christ and His message a unifier? How does it motivate and empower us to love?