

Getting Started

1. As you reflect on last week's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?
2. Reflecting over your life experience, have you ever been a part of something where you felt you were a part of a team that was totally unified? Describe your experience. Have you ever felt that with your church family?

Into the Bible

3. One of the main points of this week's sermon is that human relationships cannot be reconciled without doing something about man's sinful condition. Read **Genesis 3-4**. When man first fell into sin, how did it affect his relationships?
4. Jesus made numerous attempts to point out to the religious Pharisees that they were prejudiced, and that to love others meant that we must even love those who are deeply different than us. Read **Luke 10:25-37**. What is the significance of the good man in the story being a Samaritan and not a Jew? If the story were told today, what type of person might Jesus use as an example to American people?

Connecting the Dots

5. The church is commanded to love each other. Where has the Christian church failed in this in the past? Have you ever personally been a part of some "Christian" effort or organization, and saw prejudice? Have you ever been a part of some "Christian" effort or organization that was diverse? Talk about your experience, and what you learned.
6. Do you believe the American church is "loving each other the way Christ loved us"? Why or why not?
7. What can we do as a church to have more of the type of unity that these verses are talking about?
8. Some churches still have prejudice and act more like country clubs than churches. However, some churches take the message of love, and say it really means we shouldn't ever "judge" someone over what they do or believe personally, we just need to talk about Jesus. Is there ever a time when someone's words or actions should be "judged" by the church - in a sense, calling that person to repentance? If so, what types of issues should the church take seriously, and refuse to "unite" over?