

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

When the religious leaders accused Jesus of using demonic power against demons, Jesus pointed out the obvious error in their accusation: a house divided against itself will fall, because division leads to problems, and unity leads to peace. Jesus went on to say that if anything that we are doing doesn't help Him gather the lost into His kingdom, then we're actually working AGAINST Jesus (and no one wants to do that!).

This week's Big Idea states that "God's answer is better than our agenda." In other words, God's answer for the sin that divides us was the loving sacrifice of His Son to defeat that sin and allow us to be made one. When we accept that truth and allow Jesus and the gospel to trump our own agendas, we'll begin to see each of the following being more and more real in our own lives.

1. **Being RIGHTEOUS is more important than being RIGHT**
2. **Being ONE is more important than being the WINNER**
3. **The difference grace makes IN us is more important than the differences issues can cause BETWEEN us**
4. **A family committed to UNITY is more important than an enemy committed to DIVISION**
5. **The CROSS is more important than the CROSSFIRE**

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What takeaway – if any – did you have from the message this week?
- Which of the 5 points do you identify with the most?
- Have you ever "won the battle but lost the war?" Describe the situation and how you felt when it was over?
- Read Colossians 3:14, 1 Peter 4:8, and 1 John 4:18. What do we learn about love in these passages? How can love help us in the fight for unity?
- Read Galatians 3:27-28. How does being "clothed in Christ" make us one? How do we retain our individual identities while also maintaining unity?
- Many of us have read Galatians 2:20 before, but have you ever noticed that it was written in the context of Paul and Peter having a disagreement? Notice that Paul confronted Peter based on the GOSPEL and not Paul's preference (Galatians 2:14), and that, in context, the famous "I am crucified with Christ" verse is Paul hiding his agenda in the cross! What can we learn from this that can help heal a divided church in our culture?