

Unity in Christ

Reflect

1. When is a time in your life you have felt close to someone? Why did you feel this way?
2. When is a time in your life you have felt far from someone? Why did you feel this way?
3. Have you ever put together a complex puzzle before? What was it? How long did it take, and when did you know when it was completed?

Read Your Bible

- Ephesians 4:1-6
- John 17:10-12

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Have you ever prayed over someone or had someone pray over you? How did this make you feel?
2. It is a crazy thought to know that Jesus has prayed for you and me that we may be one. What do you think He means by this?
3. What areas of the universal church, if any, have you noticed division in? What areas have you noticed unity in?

4. Why unity? Of all things, why do you think Jesus prays for our unity?

5. If you were to rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 on how united you feel to believers around you (1 – not united; 10 – very united), how would you rate yourself and why?

6. What is one thing you can do this week to grow in unity to the body of Christ?

Conclusion

Unity in Christ is kind of like a puzzle. It is not fully complete unless all the pieces have come together. However, although we are called to have peace with the world, the Apostle Paul in Ephesians tells us that what is to unite us as followers of Jesus Christ is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and Father of all. This does not appear to mean we are called to unite ourselves with anyone and everyone. This is not what Jesus is talking about. Rather, the unity that we have is in Christ, meaning that we as believers are to have a special bond that brings us together, namely our faith in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Although we are called to love those of different faiths and backgrounds, Jesus' prayer was that we may be united by *our* faith in *Him*. This is a very specific prayer. And when this happens, we will be protected by His name, as Jesus prays, and be brought into eternal life.

Pray

Father in Heaven, just as Jesus prayed that our church may be united to one another, we also ask that You unite us under one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, that being filled with the Holy Spirit, we may have a bond of peace that transcends all understanding and proclaims to the world that we are Your disciples. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.