

WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Uniting the Divided

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | Acts 21:15–26

ICE BREAKER:

Have you ever seen a positive example of reconciliation in your church, community, or personally? What was that like?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Define disunity. Then Read Proverbs 6:16-19. What is God's disposition towards disunity/discord? How does this change your thinking about divisions in the church?

Read Galatians 5:16-24. In this passage, Paul lists the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. Which works of the flesh lead to disunity, and which fruits of the Spirit are an antidote to this?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

What tensions were present between Jewish and Gentile believers in this passage, and how did Paul navigate them without compromising the truth of the gospel?

Read Philippians 2:2-8. What does Paul have to say about pursuing unity? How does Paul describe Jesus' character in this text?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

How do believers today promote disunity instead of peace in the church? How have you seen this in your own thoughts and conversations?

Is there an area or relationship in your life where you care more about being right than being reconciled?

What is a deliberate way you can seek to promote unity in the church?

PARENTING MOMENT:

Ask your child(ren) why unity is important and how we can achieve it. Read Philippians 2:3-8 together as a family. Talk about how this week you can be united as a family through the lens of the passage.

FURTHER STUDY:

For more on Christian unity, read Jon Bloom's article "Why Is Christian Unity So Hard?"; Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology, Chapter 45 "The Purity and Unity of the Church"; and Justin Taylor's article "Not All Doctrines Are at the Same Level: How to Make Some Distinctions and Determine a Doctrine's Importance."