



Week 2 // Unifying

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Big Idea from the Message

When we profess that the Church is 'one', we are drawn into the missionary activity of the Triune God as a 'unifying' church. ACTS churches actively partner with others in Kingdom ministry around God's mission and plan for this world.

Connect

1. What are you most looking forward to in 2019? What is your hope for the year?

Digging Deeper

2. What is a time you attempted to accomplish something on your own, but instead tried to take care of it on your own? How would the help of another benefited you and made a difference?
3. In the book 'The Ministry of Ordinary Places,' Shannan Martin talks about the importance and benefit of a strong Christian community. She states...

'...maybe the American idea of neighbors doesn't match God's idea. He invites us to something deeper, calling us to join him in loving each other and promising it will be worth the vulnerability it's sure to cost us. He points us to the heart of the matter: aligning with our neighbors will change our lives if we let it. But before we can offer them anything, we first have to be mindful of students in the uncomfortable art of receiving.'

Why are we hesitant to receive help from someone else? What does it take for you to be willing (and even excited) about receiving what someone else might have to offer us?

Live It Out

Read John 17:18-26

4. These words of Christ are the core of why the Church is called to be a 'Unifying' church. What in these verses provide a reason why we are called to work and be together as one and not divided?
5. In what ways can Christians be divided in our world? What is the cause of this? What are the ways this division negatively impacts the work we are called to be doing in this world?

Read Galatians 3:26-29

6. These words in the book of Galatians reminds us that what unites us is Christ. The views and aspects of our world can divide, but nothing can unite like the love of God. What role does humility play in this? How does a 'Humble Church' lead to a 'Unifying Church'?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

7. How do these verses show the opposite potential, that if we as Christians are able to work together, what we might be able to accomplish? What is a step(s) that we as a group and church could make towards this?

Lifting it up

A way for Christians to model being a unified church is through prayer. Today, as a group, pray for...

- A humble approach to our interactions with others so that we might be a more willing partner in ministry.
- A desire to see the strengths and need for those around us so that the Gospel might be better proclaimed.
- A reminder that while we were broken, the unifying nature of our Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) has made us whole and welcomes us into the work He is doing in this world.