

**Maintaining Christian Unity in the Midst of Diversity**

**We are called to:**

live a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ life.

\_\_\_\_\_ people across \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of people,

whether or not we \_\_\_\_\_ with them.

**Relationships are the \_\_\_\_\_**

**that \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_.**

# **GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK**

**For the week of January 25, 2026**

Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that stood out to you or seemed especially encouraging? Was there a thought, comment, or point from this week's sermon particularly caught your attention? Did anything confuse you? Excite you? Anger you?

## **My Story**

- 1.** What excites you most about participating in a growth group for these next 9 weeks? If you participated in the last session, what made you want to sign up again? If you didn't, what led you to sign up this time?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2.** Did you set any resolutions or goals for 2026? How are they going so far? If you didn't, just share with the group how your year is going so far over all!
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3.** As we close out the first month of this new year, what are you looking forward to in the year ahead? It could be a trip, an event, an activity, a milestone – anything that you are looking toward with joyful anticipation.

# Digging Deeper

1. This Sunday Pastor Tim discussed the importance of maintaining unity, especially with other Christians. In Ephesians 4:1-5, Paul address the issue of Christian unity. What kind of attitudes and actions does Paul write about that are needed to maintain unity?

As you look at your list, are there any of these attitudes or actions that you need to work on or that you feel are lacking in your life?

Read on a little further through verse 13. How does Paul express the idea that unity can and does include a whole lot of diversity?

2. In Romans 14:1-23, Paul gives some suggestions for ways to work through the kinds of issues that often divide Christians. As you read through this passage, respond to the statements below.

Identify the controversial issues the church was dealing with and their impact on the church.

Identify the remedies Paul gives to work through the issues so unity can be restored.

If you have ever seen or found yourself in a similar situation, what did you find helpful in the way it was handled? What did you wish would have happened differently based on this passage?

3. Later in his letter to the Corinthians, Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to help them understand how we can embrace diversity even as we strive for unity. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. What is helpful to you about this metaphor? Is there anything that isn't particularly helpful about it?

What is the implication of verse 17? Who does Paul say decides who goes where and who does what in verse 18?

Why do you think God designed the church this way?

## Taking It Home

4. When it comes to dumb things Christians fight over, people are often tempted to set themselves up as "spiritual watchdogs" or "life/belief referees". If you've ever experienced someone playing one of these roles in your life uninvited, what happened in that situation? How did you respond/feel?

Have you ever invited someone to play one of these roles in your life? If so, how does that change the interaction? How you respond/feel?

One of the purposes of Growth Groups is to be intentional about making sure we have people holding us accountable but doing so in a loving way. How might your Growth Group *best* do that for you so that you might respond in a healthy, rather than a defensive, way?

Read Matthew 7:1-5. What insights do you find on this subject?