



SOLVING THE RELATIONSHIP RUBIK'S CUBE

Small Group Questions Week 6

1. What do you think it means to have unity? What causes people to have unity? Read Ephesians 4:1-6. What does this passage command us to do as Christians? What do you think this means? In this passage, what are the two things that produce Christian unity?

Answer – In this passage we are commanded to maintain the unity that is produced in the church by the Holy Spirit. The first thing that produces unity is that the Holy Spirit indwells each Christian and will be always moving us to be united as brothers and sisters. The second thing that produces unity is the shared beliefs, practices, and experiences that we have as children of God: We are all part of the same family.

2. Pastor Rick said there are three ways in which Satan uses people to destroy unity in the church, what are they? Which one(s) have you personally experienced? Why do you think Christians do these things to other Christians?

Answer – The three things are: 1. Unrebuked gossip, 2. Unrelenting criticism, and 3. Unforgiving hearts.

3. What is gossip? How do you know when you are gossiping? Is gossip always untrue? Read Matthew 7:1-5. What do you think it means to judge another person? What does this passage tell us we should do before we ever think of criticizing another person? Read Colossians 3:12,13. If we did what this passage tells us to, how would that maintain the unity of the Spirit in the church?

Answer – Gossip is when someone relays information about someone and they are not part of the solution to whatever the problem is and they are not communicating the information for the purpose of solving the problem. Gossip can be absolutely true, the intent is what makes it gossip, not the content. Judging another person is when you pass sentence on a person for something he has done and you impose a penalty on them which can be as simple as treating them differently than you do others, gossiping about them, or actually doing something to punish them for what they have done. Only God gets to do that, we do not.

4. According to pastor Rick, what three things can we do to destroy gossip and slander? Will you commit to being a Christian who maintains the unity of the spirit by doing these three things?

Answer – 1. Don't ever be the source of the gossip, 2. Gently confront the gossipier and point out they are gossiping, and 3. Resist being a critical Christian.



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5. Unity in the church is destroyed when we as believers fail to handle our disagreements and differences of opinion in a Biblical way. Read Matthew 18:15-17. What are the 3 steps we are to go through when we think that someone is doing wrong? What do you think the purpose of taking these steps are? How would this produce unity?

Answer – The three steps are to: 1. Go to the person by yourself and explain to them what the problem is. 2. If they do not listen to you, find another mature Christian to go with you and confront the person a second time. 3. If they still will not listen, go to the leaders of the church and explain the situation and what you have done. At that point, you have done everything you should do. The purpose of going through these steps is to restore your relationship with the person. Whenever our motive is to hurt or harm another person, it destroys unity and is a sin.