



1. What does it mean to be in harmony with one another in the church? Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-29. According to this passage, how is harmony maintained in the body?
Answer— To be in harmony when singing is to sing notes that are different, but that compliment the melody and make it sound better. To be in harmony in the church does not mean uniformity, it means being diverse from each other but singing the same song in a way that we compliment each other: We are working toward the same goals and encouraging others to come along with us.
2. Do you think that your part in the body of Christ has anything to do with your spiritual gift? What is your spiritual gift? How can you discover your spiritual gift? What do you think would happen if everyone in the body exercised their spiritual gift?
Answer— Although your part in the body could involve where you live geographically, it primarily means that each of us have at least one spiritual gift to exercise within the body, like being a body part. Although going to a class like the 301 Class in our membership classes or reading a book on spiritual gifts can get you moving in the right direction of discovering your gift, the best way to figure out how you are gifted spiritually is to begin serving others. As you are serving others, and we should try a number of different ways to serve, one way of serving will be “your thing”, the way that you are most effective and gives you the most satisfaction. That is how God confirms to us what our spiritual gift is. You will not discover it if you do not minister to others.
3. Whenever you talk about unity in the church, it is good to know what the exceptions that God gives for not having unity with another Christian. Read the following passages and discuss when God tells us not to have unity with someone. 2 Corinthians 6:14-17, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 9-12, Matthew 18:15-17. According to Galatians 6:1, what should you always do before you separate from a brother in Christ? Can you think of any other reason to not have unity with other Christians?
Answer—In 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 tells us that we should not be unified with unbelievers because we have nothing in common with them spiritually, it will lead us away from the Lord since they will not want to do the things that God says we should do. The passage in 1 Corinthians 5 says not to associate with a believer who is living an ungodly lifestyle and Matthew 18 defines this further as a believer who has resisted church discipline. Galatians 6

tells us that before we separate from a fellow believer who is living in sin, someone who is spiritual (not living in rebellion to God) should always attempt to restore a believer who is living in rebellion to God before we disassociate from them. The only other time we have a legitimate reason to not be unified with another believer is if they are teaching false doctrine. This should not be just a difference in opinion or preference, but when they actually believe and teach things that are contrary to what scripture says. The most obvious one would be someone who is teaching you have to do good works to be saved or to stay saved. You may want to have a discussion about which Christian beliefs would be important enough to divide over and which ones would not.

4. It has been said: "If you find a perfect church, don't go because you would mess it up for everyone else". What is the point of that saying? Is there such a thing as a perfect church? Why or why not? What do you consider to be the "essentials" of a church, that they need to be doing these right for you to attend? What would you consider to be "non-essentials" that you could tolerate even if you may not like that they are done?

Answer—Obviously there are no perfect churches because they are made up imperfect people. It is important to identify the teachings of the Bible that are so important to you that for you to be comfortable there, they need to be present in the church, so this could be a good discussion. Whenever a church does things that you do not personally prefer, such as a style of music, that should not be a reason not to go to that church.

5. Read Matthew 7:1-5. What does it mean to judge another person? Pastor Rick said that four things happen to you when you judge brothers in Christ, what were they? Read Matthew 18:15-17 again. Is it being judgmental to point out to a brother or sister in Christ that they are doing something that is wrong? What is the difference between what Matthew 18 talks about and what Jesus said in Matthew 7?

Answer—To judge someone is to do what a judge does: Declare that someone is guilty and then punish them for their guilt. It is not our job to punish someone for what they do wrong. The punishment could be as simple as thinking badly about them or not be willing to help them. It can be that we talk about them and their sin to others. This is different from Matthew 18 which instructs us how to go about restoring a brother who has sinned against us. Pointing out to someone that what they are doing is wrong for the purpose of getting them to change their behavior is not being judgmental, it is being loving because you know what they are doing will be harmful to them.

