

## **1 Corinthians - United in the Spirit**

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 2-3

**Purpose:** We live in a divided world. Just spend two minutes on Twitter or watch the news, everyone is at each other's throats. Unity appears to be the exception rather than the norm, and this includes inside the church. And yet, Jesus in John 17 prays: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:20-21). Unity is important to the message, mission, and integrity of the church. This week, we consider that we are United Together in the Holy Spirit.

**Opening Interaction:** What is your favorite kind of crowd to be part of? Concert? Baseball game? Library? What is it about being with others (even strangers) in a mutual setting that can feel so good?

**Read and Discuss:**

- In these passages, what details seem important? Does anything jump out at you?
  - What is the author communicating to the audience?
  - What does this passage teach us about God?
1. Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-12. Who (ultimately) teaches people about Jesus?
  2. Read 1 Corinthians 2:13-16. What does the Spirit teach us?
  3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-23. Where does God's spirit reside?
  4. When we gather as a church, do you experience unity? As a small group?
  5. Why might Jesus place a high value on unity?
  6. How can you foster unity in our church? In this small group?

### **Calvary Season of Prayer: Anticipation**

We should anticipate unity in the church. How should we pray to these ends?

- In this season of anticipation, please take a few minutes with your group to pray and ask God to heal and energize our church.
- Also pray with anticipation for...
  - Unity in the Spirit
  - Reconciliation for broken relationships
  - Opportunity to share the good news of Jesus
  - Students, volunteers and staff who are away at Summer Camp this weekend