



WEEK FOUR: WE STAY UNITED – Study Guide

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The church (a group of millions of people) is called the bride of Christ. She is most effective when she is united for a common cause. Unity takes intentionality, but it has a huge payoff when achieved.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Are you a part of any clubs or athletic teams, or have you been a part of one in the past? If so, what was it? What was the appeal of being in that group?

Into the Bible

- 2) **1 John 2:18-19 and 26-27** describe a severe case of disunity in the churches in Asia Minor. What appears to have happened? What caused this level of disunity?

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- 3) Unity takes love. Our love for one another even proves to the world that we belong to Jesus. Read **1 John 3:11-15** to see a grave example of the need for love. Does John give a middle ground between love and hate? According to verse 13, why is unity so important?
- 4) The need for unity is seen throughout the Bible. What do the following passages teach about unity in the church?
- a. **John 17:9-11, 20-23**
 - b. **Romans 15:5-7**
 - c. **1 Corinthians 1:10-13**
 - d. **1 Corinthians 11:17-18**
 - e. **Ephesians 4:3-6**

How Does This Apply?

- 5) Q. After looking at several passages on unity and its importance, what is your particular role in maintaining unity in your Life Group? In The Cove Church?

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Current Prayer Focus

What we're praying for together as a church:

- Neighborhood Campuses
- Building for the Statesville Campus
- 100 New Leaders at The Cove

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 6) Jesus' high priestly prayer was recorded in John 17. In that prayer, Jesus prayed that His disciples would "be one as we are one" (John 17:11b). This is a reference to the trinity. How are the Father and the Son "one"? How are they distinct? How can we, in the church, be "one" yet distinct?

Genesis 1:26

Matthew 3:16-17

2 Corinthians 13:14

John 16:7

John 1:1-4

Deuteronomy 6:4

Isaiah 48:16

John 10:30

John 14:26

Acts 10:38

John 20:25-28

Luke 12:10