

1. What criticisms of the Church do people from outside the Church often make? Which of these perceptions are undeserved? Which might have some validity?
2. Read Ephesians 4:11–16.
  - What kinds of diversity do these verses call out?
  - What part does truth play in creating unity? What part does love play?
  - How does a diversity of gifts bless the unity of the Church?
  - When can this diversity lead to disunity? What is the antidote for this in our congregation?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–25.
  - How does Paul picture the unity of the Church in this passage?
  - In what ways is this a helpful picture?
  - Based on this passage, how would you respond to someone who claims, “I don’t need the Church. I can follow God individually, on my own”?
4. Now review Ephesians 2:12–13.
  - How do these words humble us?
  - How do these verses compel us to seek unity with our brothers and sisters in the family of God?
5. What insights about unity have you seen over the past few weeks as you have read the devotion book *Together: Living as Christ's Church*?
6. What are some tangible ways we could work toward even more unity in our congregation?

Before you leave today, pray with and for one another. Pray especially for the unity of the Church—the Church around the world, the Church in our country, the Church in your particular town or city, and for your local congregation.

Then continue praying for these things for yourself and for each other throughout the week.