**DISCUSSION STARTER:**



## Discipleship Groups

Sermon Dates:

**May 13 & 14, 2023**

**Butch Gastfield**

Scripture Text

***1 Cor. 1:10-17;***

***3:1-9***

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Have you ever been a part of a close-knit team? What were some of the characteristics you feel demonstrated the unity? If you can recall any time that unity was challenged, how did the team overcome that?

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

*Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9*

* What is your overall impression of the Corinthian congregation based on these verses? What are the specific attributes Paul mentions that support your impression?
* What do you feel Fairway Christian Church has in common with the Corinthians?

Paul shifts from this positive opening greeting and addresses a problem he sees—divisions among the Body.

*Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17*

* What is Paul’s plea in *vs. 10*? Do the words “mind” and “judgment” suggest anything to you about the process of developing and maintaining unity within the church?
* What do we find in *vs. 12* to be the source of the quarreling?
* What similarities, if any, do you see in the tendencies described in these verses with some believers in our current day?
* How does *vs. 13* resonate with *vs. 10* in terms of the church’s foundation for unity?

***Read aloud together as a prayer of unity*:** *Ephesians 4:4-6*

**DISCUSSION:**

During the formative years of the *Restoration Movement* Butch is preaching about, several slogans were developed to express key principles of the plea. One was: ***“In matters of faith, unity; in matters of opinion liberty; in all things, love.”***

* Is this a statement you can affirm?
* What would you identify as essential items on which all Christ-followers must agree if we are to have unity while maintaining Biblical truths?
* Are there areas of “opinion” you find repeatedly emerging in your interactions with other believers?

*Read Ephesians 4:1-3* and *Philippians 2:5-8*



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* What key principles are found here that can help us “love in all things”?

**PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

* Are there any “opinions” of mine that I have made so essential that they interfere with my feelings of unity towards my Christian brothers or sisters?

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

*Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9*

Though the latter part of this passage points to an issue similar to that of *Chapter 1*, the first verses introduce a specific characteristic of the followers that Paul addresses.

* What is the problem characteristic?
* What does Paul equate with the notion of worldliness?
* What is his expectation of them at this point in their walk with Jesus?
* What is the solution for greater unity that Paul presents in *vs. 5-9*?

**REFLECTION/DISCUSSION:**

* Can you identify any change/growth/transition in your *nourishment* in the recent past?
* What things would you attribute this to?
* How, specifically, has this group contributed to that?

**DISCUSSION:**

Another key slogan from the early *Restoration Movement* leaders was:

**“Where the Scripture speak, we speak; where the Scripture are silent, we are silent.”**

* Is this, too, a statement you can fully endorse?
* Are you confident in Fairway CC’s adherence to this approach?

*Read Hebrews 5:11-6:2*

* Does this passage in any way support the statement above?
* What does it suggest should be the common goal for any disciple of Jesus?

**PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

* Have I reached a point of maturity where I can be a “teacher” of others?