



Side By Side
Pastor Jake Taylor 02.22.2026

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Philippians 1:27] ESV

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

The New Testament teaches me to view the Church as God's covenant people and family, as the body and bride of Christ, and as the temple where God in Christ dwells by His Spirit. To Be a Christian. -An Anglican Catechism

[Philippians 2:1-2] NASB

Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

[Psalm 133:1] KJV

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

[Ecclesiastes 4:9-12] ESV

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

[John 10:16] ESV

And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd.

[John 17:20-21] NLT

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

[Acts 4:32] ESV

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

[Romans 12:4-5] NLT

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

[Romans 15:5-6] NLT

May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[1 Corinthians 1:10] NLT

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

[Ephesians 4:1-6] NLT

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

[Philippians 2:1-2] NASB

Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

1. Encouragement in Christ = The Same Mind

[Ephesians 1:3] ESV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

[2 Corinthians 5:17] ESV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

[Romans 12:2] NIV

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing and perfect will.

[2 Corinthians 10:5] ESV

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

[Philippians 4:8] ESV

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

[Isaiah 26:3] ESV

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

2. Any Consolation of Love = The Same Love

[1 John 3:16] ESV

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

[Matthew 22:37-39] ESV

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

[John 14:15] NLT

“If you love me, obey my commandments.

[Philippians 2:3-4] ESV

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

[1 Corinthians 5:12] NLT

It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning.

3. Any Fellowship of the Spirit = United in Spirit

[Galatians 4:4-7] NLT

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

4. Affection and Compassion = Intent On one Purpose

[Philippians 2:5-11] NLT

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Key Points:

- 1. *Encouragement in Christ = The Same Mind***
- 2. *Any Consolation of Love = The Same Love***
- 3. *Any Fellowship of the Spirit = United in Spirit***
- 4. *Affection and Compassion = Intent On one Purpose***

Applications for the Week:

The church exists as ekklesia, defined as an assembly called for kingdom business. What is one way you can more intentionally see your involvement in the church not as a voluntary activity, but as a calling to participate in God's kingdom business. What is something God is calling you to in this season to invest in His house?

Discussion Questions:

- 1.** According to Philippians 1:27, what are the two indicators that a person's life is "worthy of the gospel"?
- 2.** In Philippians 2:1-2, what four experiences in Christ does Paul list as the foundation for unity?
- 3.** What specific actions and attitudes does Paul command in Philippians 2:3-4 as the practical outworking of unity?
- 4.** What are the key steps in Christ's journey from divinity to exaltation as described in Philippians 2:6-11?
- 5.** Why would standing firm in "one spirit" and "one mind" be a sign of destruction to opponents and salvation to believers (Phil 1:28)?
- 6.** How does the command to "count others more significant than yourselves" (Phil 2:3) challenge our natural, self-preserving instincts? What does this look like in practice?
- 7.** How does the ultimate exaltation of Christ (Phil 2:9-11) provide motivation for the humble, obedient service He modeled?