

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series on Letters to New Christians. Today's topic: UNITY IN CHRIST.

1) The problem of cliques in the church

- a. 1 Corinthians 1:10 What appeal does Paul make at the beginning of his letter to Christians in Corinth?
- b. Why did Paul make this appeal for unity and harmony among the believers? 1 Corinthians 1:12-13
- c. Why is it so easy for cliques to form in churches, resulting in divisions and contentions?
- d. Why are divisions and contentions so debilitating and damaging as Christians seek to share the good news about Jesus with others? John 13:35, John 17:21-23
- e. What is the difference between a clique and a healthy small group?

2) Perfectly joined together

- a. 1 Corinthians 1:10 How is it possible for imperfect human beings to be perfectly joined together? 1 Corinthians 1:4-9, Colossians 3:12-14, Romans 5:5
- b. What does it mean to be of “the same mind”? Philippians 2:1-8
- c. How is it possible to have a diversity of opinions and still be of the same mind?

3) Growing in spiritual maturity

- a. 1 Corinthians 3:1-2 How does Paul describe the spiritual maturity of Christians in Corinth?

- b. How was their spiritual immaturity manifested? 1 Corinthians 3:3-4
- c. What is an indication that Christians are growing in their spiritual maturity? 1 Corinthians 2:12-16
- d. Who has helped you mature spiritually?

4) Leading as servants of Christ

- a. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2
- b. What teaching of Jesus reminds us of the need to follow His example of servant leadership? Mark 10:42-45
- c. What does it mean to be “stewards of the mysteries of Christ”?
- d. Is suffering an inevitable experience for servants of Christ? 1 Corinthians 4:9-13, John 15:18-21, Matthew 5:11-12
- e. What are your thoughts about Paul’s invitation in 1 Corinthians 4:16? (see also 1 Corinthians 11:1)
- f. We all have a circle of influence. Who is looking to you as an example?
- g. Why is it always better to keep our eyes focused on Jesus rather than focusing on human leaders, however gifted or charismatic they might be?
- h. How can we be assured that we will be faithful examples and faithful stewards in our circle of influence?

