AT THE THRESHOLD

Jeff Loven, Pastor of Spiritual Formation March 29, 2015

BE ONE = ON MISSION

Next Steps

- This week I will pursue an act of unity with a follower of Jesus from another church tradition.
- This week I will repair an area of disunity between myself and another follower of Jesus.
- I am committing to follow Jesus for the first time today.
- I am re-committing to follow Jesus today.



Lesson Aim: To grow in awareness of how to have unity in the Body of Christ.

Ice-breaker: What was a team sport or group that you have been a part of?

- 1. **Read John 17:20-21.** Jesus prays that all of us would "be one" and have complete unity. What does it mean to you to "be one" in the church and to have unity?
- 2. Pastor Jeff taught us that the quality of our unity is the quality of our witness to Jesus. Why is unity so important in our outreach to others? How are we a witness to Jesus?
- 3. **Read Colossians 3:12-17.** Which of the virtues listed do you feel is a strong point in your walk with Christ? Which of the virtues do you feel that you could improve upon? How do you improve?
- 4. **Colossians 3:15** says that we are all members of one body. How are we called to view and interact with other denominations within Christ's church? Why do you believe that there are so many denominations?
- 5. Pastor Jeff taught us that the unity in Christ extends beyond our own church and denomination. When is a time that you have partnered with someone from another church for outreach or Bible study? How was the experience different from partnering with someone from your own church?

- 6. Some churches, even in the same faith basis, seem to compete for members and attenders. Why do you think this is? How do you feel about trying to convince a person to change churches when they are fruitful in the similar faith based church they currently attend?
- 7. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:10.** Why is it so important that there is agreement in the Body of Christ? Is there any area of disunity between you and another follower of Jesus that needs repair? What is holding you back?
- 8. The Holy Spirit is here to help guide us in our pursuit of unity. What are some steps that you can take to have stronger unity in your LifeGroup? In your church? With members of other churches?

Daily Devotional Plan – Scriptures to help remind us that we are to have unity.

Day 1 – Ephesians 4:11-13 Day 2 – Psalm 133:1 Day 3 – 1 Peter 3:8 Day 4 –Romans 12:16 Day 5 –Philippians 2:1-2 Day 6 – Galatians 3:26-28 Day 7 – 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

To go deeper: Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper/journal/laptop/etc.:

- What did you hear? (What did God say to you as you read the Scriptures for the day?)
- What do you think? (What does it mean to you, how does it apply to your life, and what difference will it make to you?)
- What will you do? (What action step will you take? How will you think differently? How will you live differently?)
- Now talk to God (Put your thoughts into prayer. It could be a prayer of gratitude or praise. It could be a prayer of confession or a request for God's help. It's up to you. But take a minute each day to write a prayer response to what you read in the Scriptures.)