



DISCIPLE-DIVIDING

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

WOULD YOU STILL WATCH IT TODAY?

ARE YOU AS MATURE TODAY AS YOU THOUGHT YOU'D BE AT THIS POINT IN LIFE?

READ EPHESIANS 4:14-16 TOGETHER:

Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

THROW OUT SOME GUESSES OF WHAT YOU THINK IS GOING ON IN THIS CHURCH THAT WOULD CAUSE PAUL TO WRITE TO THIS TO THEM.

HAVE YOU BEEN HURT RECENTLY BY SOMEONE WHO WAS NOT ACTING AS MATURE AS THEY SHOULD BE?

HERE'S ONE OF THE MAIN PASSAGES FROM SUNDAY JOHN 17:20

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.

IF THIS IS ONE OF JESUS' LAST PRAYERS WHY DO YOU THINK UNITY FOR US WOULD BE SO IMPORTANT?

**WHAT TYPES OF SITUATIONS DIVIDE CHRISTIANS?
(IE. BELIEFS, GOSSIP....)**

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THAT YOU KNOW OF TO HELP OVERCOME SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS OR DIVISIVE ISSUES?

HERE'S TWO THOUGHTS FROM TWO PIECES OF SCRIPTURE:

**FROM PAUL:
COLOSSIANS 3:13**

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

THEN THIS FROM JESUS COMES RIGHT IN-BETWEEN THE TELLING OF THE SHEPHERD WHO LEFT 99 SHEEP TO FIND THE 1 AND THE STORY OF A WICKED DEBTOR WHO HAD HIS DEBT FORGIVEN BUT REFUSED TO FORGIVE A LESSER DEBT

MATT 18:15-17

If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

FINAL THOUGHTS?

PRAYER

