



Community Group Discussion “Our House United” Blake Forman January 3, 2016

Primary Text: Philippians 1:27

Additional References: Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 2:1-11; James 5:13-18

- In the sermon introduction, we learned that Paul wrote this letter to the church in Philippi because, although they had incredible zeal and love for the Lord, they had one big problem: Disunity.
 - What are some examples of disunity in the Church that you've seen or experienced? (Note for Group Leader: Blake gave some examples like between denominations, over doctrinal beliefs, between churches in the same city, among our body at SCC.)
 - What effects have you seen these examples of disunity have in the Church?
- Read Philippians 1:27. Paul teaches the Church how we are to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ or, as we learned from the original Greek, to live as a citizen of the Kingdom of God.
 - Practically, how can we stand firm in one spirit? What does it look like?
 - How can we strive side-by-side? What does this look like? (Note for Group Leader: Recall the description Blake gave about how the Spartans fought their battles side-by-side as one unit. The word used here was 'sunathleó [soon-ath-leh'-o] where we get the word athlete from.)
 - OPTIONAL: If desired, read Ephesians 4:1-3 and discuss more practical ways unity is lived out:
 - Humility
 - Gentleness
 - Patience
 - Bearing with one another in love
 - Eager to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace
- Read James 5:13-18. Verse 16 says that we can be healed from the sins that overcome us in community-by confessing our sins to one another and praying for one another.
 - Why don't we let our community, those who we walk through life with, into the deepest, darkest areas of our lives so that they can pray for us?
 - What happens when we don't confess our sins, even the ugliest ones, to one another?
 - Has anyone ever experienced healing as a result of confession and prayer in community with others?

Note to Group Leaders: This provides you with a natural progression into your time of confession, encouragement, and prayer.