

THE LOVE THAT UNITES US

October 26, 2025

Get a Grip & Get a Life // Preparing for Departure // John 17:20-26

CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. What's new in your life since the last time we met? And where do you see God at work in the life around you?
2. If you could pick one superpower to help you make peace in your family or church, what would it be and why?
3. When have you been part of a team or group that worked really well together, and what was unique about the group that enabled it to work as one?
4. Describe a situation where you've seen division or conflict tear down something good, and what did you learn from that?

REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

5. Read John 17:20-26 aloud. What stood out to you in the sermon this week and what did God reveal to you in His Word, maybe for the first time? Why do you think Jesus focused His prayers on unity?
6. Showing how the word of the disciples was the word of God in verse 20, Pastor Jeremy described how the truth of God's word is essential to unity in the church. How can we "hold fast to truth" without being quarrelsome or prideful?
7. Jesus prayed for Christians to be one "so that the world might believe" and "so that the world may know" that the Father sent Him and loved them (verses 21 and 23). How does disunity among Christians affect our witness to the world?
8. Pastor Jeremy described from verse 22 how God met us with amazing grace that gives us a shared story of unearned glory. Why is remembering this so important for humility and unity in the church?
9. What actions or attitudes in the church most help or harm the testimony of Christ to others?
10. Jesus prayed for His followers to experience the Father's love and His presence. Share a moment when you clearly experienced God's love through another believer. How can we be more intentional in showing that love in our group and church?

Key take-away: True Christian unity isn't about sameness or avoiding conflict; it's about being united in Christ's truth, joined in His mission, humbled by His grace, bound by His love, and headed toward the same glorious destination.

PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)

11. Who might God be prompting you to reconcile with or reach out to for the sake of gospel witness?
12. How can we as a group protect the unity of our fellowship when disagreements arise?



13. Is there anyone in our group, church, or family needing extra prayer or encouragement this week?
Let's share and commit to reach out to them.

Pray together for our church to reflect the unity Jesus prayed for — that we would be one in truth, mission, grace, and love, so the world may believe that the Father sent the Son.

Announcements

Our final Life Group Trimester for the year is winding down. **Next week will be our last week of regular meetings.** But we do encourage your group to plan [deeper gatherings](#). One suggestion: why not plan a Christmas gathering to foster deeper fellowship in your group?

We are collecting shoe boxes packed with goodies for children for **Operation Christmas Child**. Any shoebox will do, but we have boxes available in the church lobby. Take one or more and fill them up to **return by November 19**. Check out this link to see [what to pack](#).

Salvation Army Angel Tree angel tags will be available for anyone wishing to bless a Rockingham County child with presents for Christmas this year. You can grab one from the mini tree in the church lobby on **Sunday, November 9**. Gifts are **due back Sunday, November 30**.

Our **Titus 2 Women's Ministry Monthly Coffee & Prayer Gathering** will be on **Saturday, November 8 at 9:30am**. Kristy Starnes from Genesis Ministries of Rockingham County will be our special guest speaker. Ladies can bring a breakfast dish to share with others and/or items that can be used to pack shoeboxes for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

We're still making preparations for **Love My Neighbors Day** on **November 15**. You can still sign up and receive a New Vision T-Shirt *while supplies last* (we ordered a few extras). **We want everyone involved!** Sign up online at <https://nvf.life/lmnd>.

Resources for Going Deeper

Read this article from Trevin Wax of the Gospel Coalition who explains from John 17 how Christian unity shows the world what God is like and equips us as Christians to endure the world's hostility.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevin-wax/christian-unity-deeper/>