

What We're (Acutally) Against | Week 1 - The War Against Divisiveness

Message Big Idea

As Christ-followers, we are against divisiveness because Jesus is for unity.

Scripture

Romans 16:17-20, John 17:20-23, Matthew 7:1-2, Romans 12:18, Ephesians 4:2-6

Points to Keep In Mind

1. What unites us as a church is what we believe and practice about the way of Jesus and his life, death, resurrection, and ascension. If we focus on the unity, we have as brothers and sisters in Jesus. This frees us up from getting dragged down in debates about peripheral issues. It allows us to focus on helping people find their way back to God.
2. We are all influenced by many people, organizations, and ideas. When we ask people to think about the influences in their lives that don't align with Jesus, we're not trying to call people out. Instead, we are giving safe space for people to reflect on their lives and to think through what influences them every day. You may need to go first and admit where you feel you drift from the way of Jesus.
3. As we read through the Scriptures for this discussion, it's worth pointing out that it's OK to have different beliefs, interpretations, and even political leanings in our church. What is important is that we approach our differences with humility assuming we can learn something from other people who are different from us. As individuals, our perspectives are limited, so we need each other to make each other better and wiser. We can also push each other to hold opinions, practices, and political leanings rooted in the Christian faith. If you look at various Christian traditions today, some on the left and right hold their positions because that's where faithful study, prayer, and a desire to live a Christian ethic have led them. At the same time, others are more disciplined by a preferred cable news network. Wherever we land on complex and challenging topics, let's make sure we're landing there because we're seeking to live out our Christian faith and not simply going along with unexamined assumptions or the dogmas of political parties.
4. Whenever we are in conversation with people, we can always engage with humility, assuming they might have something to teach us. We can also be curious about how the other person has come to their conclusions about controversial topics. We can also share openly how we've arrived at the place we've landed. If we enter those conversations to hear one another rather than win an argument, it's surprising how much common ground we can find. Of course, if we are focused on Jesus and his way, we have a ton of common ground to form a united community.

Additional Questions and Resources

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
4. If you missed Vision Sunday, check out the video at communitychristian.org/media