

Growth Group Bible Study, 30 June 2019
Theme : The importance of unity and fellowship(II)
Bible: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
Preached by Rev. Dr. Je Cheol Cook

Before the bible study, pray to God for his guidance.

During this study, we will share with each other ideas on how we are able to unite with each other in Christ.

Explore the main purpose of our cross-cultural ministries?

What is the purpose of our Sunday Funday and our Cultural Day?

Explore ways in which we are to unite together in Christ?

Firstly, we can work together by using our spiritual gifts.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

Describe what kinds of the spiritual gifts are?

Discuss if you have any kinds of gifts.

What is the origin of term, spiritual gift?

It comes from the Greek word, charisma (χάρισμα). It simply means, "divinely empowers a believer to share God's work with others."
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We know that we each have different spiritual gifts consider what your own gifts are. Based on this meaning of spiritual gifts, how could we each use our own gifts.

If some say, "I have no spiritual gift, because I am not good at teaching or healing people," how will you respond?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:28.

What does the gift of helping mean?

What does the gift of being apostle mean?

Apostle comes from the Greek word, apóstolos (ἀποστόλους), which means "to be sent (to commission or send forth)." It is the same word of missionary, which comes from Latin word, mittere, which means "to be sent." Apostles are the same meaning of missionaries. All the believers of Christ are known as apostles and missionaries, because we are sent to preach the gospel to all the nations.

The preacher also used the story of a man named Nicholas James Vujicic. Share with others what his gifts were and how he used them.

He was born with no arms and no legs. However he has overcome his life's challenges through strength and hope found in Jesus Christ. As a child, he struggled mentally, emotionally, and physically, but eventually came to realize he had disability. At the age of seventeen, he started his own non-profit organization, Life Without Limbs. Even though Vujicic had no arms and no legs, he has helped many people hope and the meaning of life in Christ. He used a great gift of helping and encouraged many people to come to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Talk with others what kinds of spiritual gifts you have and what you have done with you gifts. What will you be doing with your gifts in the near future at the church.

Second, we are to unite together by helping each other.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12.

What does this mean?

What could be the reason for unity at the church?

What can we do to unite together at our church?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:18-21.

What does this mean?

In what ways can we apply this into our church?

Read the story. What did you learn from it.

Once upon a time, there was a king in the palace. To look after his garden, he hired two men. One man was too short and another was blind. In the palace, there was a tree, which had very delicious fruits. The two hired men worked very hard, but they couldn't eat the fruits, because the tree was too high for the short man to catch and the blind man was not able to see where it was. One day, they united together. The short man sitting on the blind's shoulder took and ate the fruits together.

Third, we are to unite together with many cultures.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:13.

What does this mean?

In the Corinthian church, many church members were diverse with different cultures, religions, and social positions. Among those, there had been much conflicts. How did Paul unite together in the church?

Read Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

What does this mean, "we are all one in Christ."

How could we help our church to become one in Christ?

Read the story below. Talk with each other what you learned and how we can apply this into our lives.

At a field, there were three kinds of cows; black, brown, and spotted. They lived peacefully and happily helping and serving each other very well. For them, there was a lion, who tried to eat but he couldn't, because they united and cooperated in harmony. In order to kill them, the lion used the strategy of not uniting each other. The cows was deceived and fought each other. Later they were killed by the lion.

What happened when the early believers of Christ united and worked together in spite of severe hardships and persecutions.

As believers of Christ, how we can unite together through our church.

Finish by prayers.