



WEEK THREE | A UNITED PEOPLE

Change is hard. Some people can accept change more easily than others. Some people are the ones who force the change. One thing is constant, and it is that change is inevitable. I like this particular subject, unity, because Maury Hills has been through significant change since its founding. We are a better church going through the changes, but it hasn't been without pain. Unity is a very fragile thing. Our discussion today is how do we become a more Christlike church and people while being as unified a possible?

What made you choose Maury Hills as your church?

What about Maury Hills is challenging for you?

TALK ABOUT IT

"Let's just be Christians and unite around Christ and not let opinions on the rest of it come between us."

Why is that hard to do?

Read John 17:11-23

What keeps us from experiencing unity in Christ?

Why do you think there are so many denominations?

APPLY IT

The world is full of golden calves. These are things we develop into idols when their proper place is skewed or distorted. Being in the "right" denomination, political party, economic group, side of town, etc. determines whether you are in or out. Can you ever imagine a world where none of that matters and we just simply love people?

Why are the loudest and most extreme views (people) given so much influence?

What does empathy and compassion have to do with being unified in Christ?

Why do you think those two are in such short supply right now?

Russ is famous for using this phrase. *"In matters of opinion, liberty; in matters of faith, unity; in all things, love."*

What do you love about this?

What's hard about this?

PRAY

It's the end of the discussion time, and you are likely feeling rushed to let everyone go. Maybe it went longer than you planned. Maybe the kids are past restless. **HOLD ON!** Don't overlook this crucial part of living life together. We get closer to people the more we know who they really are and what they are dealing with.

- Pray together before you go home.
- Take requests, email them to the group, ask them to pray this week.