

Discussion Questions

Body Building (Through Dialectical Reasoning)

Ephesians 4:1-16

(When you hear the word “Church,” what do you think of?)

(Share some of your experiences from being part of the Church. What do you love most about the Church?)

Throughout much of Paul’s writings in the New Testament, he refers to the Church as the Body of Christ. In Eph. 2:22 he wrote: “*God put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all*” (vs. 22). According to Paul, the Church is the “*fullness of him who fills all in all.*”

- When you picture the Church do you picture one body—Jesus’ body?
- What do you think it means for us to be the “fullness of him”?
- Have you ever thought of yourself as part of Someone that fills all in all?
- This scripture reveals that God wants to fill all with Himself.
- Is the idea of God filling ALL a new idea for you?
- If God plans to fill all and He plans to do it through His Church, what might you participating in God filling all in all look like in your life?

There are several “ones” mentioned in Ephesians 4:4-6: one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all...” and yet we look with our earthly eyes and see many bodies, many faiths, many baptisms, many gods etc.

- What do you think causes us to see things as divided and separate rather than one?
- Why do you think it is important to Paul to tell us about all these ones?
- Do you see any commonalities in all these ones?
- In the past, how have you perceived God? Can you fathom what “He is One” means ?

I think it’s difficult for us to fathom what oneness really looks like.

We’ll say stuff like, “God is love,” and then say, “Yeah, but God is also truth.” “God is merciful” and then say, “Yeah, but God is just.” That’s thesis and antithesis. These kinds of statements reveal that we think love and truth are in tension within God—like God is 62% love and 38% truth—or maybe God is only 43% love and 57% truth. —Peter Hiatt

And yet Jesus said, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” And “I and my Father are one.”

“God is not *part* love and *part* truth. God is all Love and He speaks nothing but Truth. He speaks One Word, and One Logos, and One Logic—One Reason—Jesus!”—Peter Hiatt

Take a moment to reflect on God incarnate(Oneness incarnate)—Jesus

- In what ways does Jesus reveal the oneness of God?
- Can you see that He is all love?
- Can you see that He is all truth?

Jesus prays for us—the Church—to have this kind of oneness.

- What might looking at Jesus teach us about what it means to be one body, His Body, in this world?

Take a moment to join Jesus in His prayer for the Church—His Body.

“I ask for those who will believe in me through their (the disciples’) word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”
—John 17:20-25

- These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen