

Live In Harmony With One Another

Opener: When have you felt accepted by someone in a way that made a real difference in your life?

Scripture and Discussion Questions

1. **Romans 12:16.** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
 - Harmony is what happens when we live together peacefully rather than fighting or arguing. What can we learn about living in harmony from musical harmony?
 - To live in harmony with other believers requires us to submit our attitudes and actions to the Lord so that His love can flow through us. How would pride, unwillingness to associate with people in low positions, and conceit make that difficult?
2. **Romans 15:7.** Accept one another just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.
 - How does Jesus accept us? How does that provide a pattern for how we accept others?
 - What biases or prejudices make it difficult to accept others unconditionally? Can we have different opinions and still accept those who disagree with us? If so, how?
 - How does accepting one another bring praise to God?
3. **Ephesians 4:1-3.** As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
 - How would you define the calling we received when we invited Jesus into our lives?
 - With that in mind, what does it mean to live in a way that's worthy of that calling?
 - How does being humble, gentle, patient, and bearing with one another in love contribute to living a life that's worthy of our calling?
4. **Colossians 3:12-14.** Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
 - How does recognizing we are loved and knowing who we are in Christ shape our attitudes & actions?
 - How has expressing compassion and kindness transformed a situation or relationship? Examples?
 - What can we learn about God's forgiveness when we try to forgive others?

Wrap Up: Paul says, "Live in harmony with one another." The problem with this verse is that it's too clear. He lists no exceptions. And living in harmony begins with humility. True humility shows up when we willingly submit ourselves into a position that's good for the body of Christ.

When renown conductor Leonard Bernstein was asked which instrument was most difficult to play he replied, "The second fiddle. I can get plenty of first violinists, but to find someone who can play the second fiddle with enthusiasm—that's a problem. And if we have no second fiddle, we have no harmony." Humility means we enthusiastically play second fiddle for the sake of living in harmony with one another.