

# Welcome Home

June 14, 2020

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Conflict. Unfortunately, it's all around us these days, including in the church. There always seems to be something we disagree about. But God has a different plan for His people. Understanding, forbearance, love, peace and unity are to be the characteristics of His people.

Has your disagreement with someone resulted in a broken or strained relationship? Perhaps these questions will help bring about reconciliation and unity.

1. Is there anything I do NOW that causes conflict between us, frustrates you, alienates you?
2. Is there anything you need from me that would bring about understanding?
3. How can we dialogue about these differences with gentleness and respect?
4. How can we bring God into our disagreements so that we can work towards unity and reconciliation?
5. What would you change about how we disagree with one another?

## Digging Deeper In the Word

What do these passages teach about unity among Christians?

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**John 17:20** <sup>20</sup>“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

**Colossians 3:13-14** <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues **put on** love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

**1 Corinthians 1:10** <sup>10</sup>I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

**1 John 1:7** <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

**1 John 2:5-6** <sup>5</sup>But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: <sup>6</sup>Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

**1 John 4:11-12** <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.