

Kindly help each other on.

LIVING WHOLEHEARTEDLY AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.

CALLED TO UNITY,
WHOLEHEARTEDLY, IN THE CAUSE
OF THE GOSPEL
SESSION 1



METHODIST
CENTENARY
CHURCH



THE METHODIST CHURCH
IN IRELAND

Scripture: John 13:34-35, John 15:9-17, John 17:20-23.

Read

1. What is the 'new command' Jesus talks about?
2. How many times does Jesus mention the word 'love' or other variations?
3. In John 17, what does Jesus pray for first?

Explore

1. Do we use the term 'love' to loosely now?
2. Jesus calls us his friend in John 15:14. What do you call Jesus?
3. What 'fruit' is Jesus referring to in John 15:16?

Respond

1. Reflecting on John 17, imagine how Jesus may be praying for your local church. If praying for the unity of the church was such a high priority of Jesus, shouldn't it be for us also?
2. Consider John: 13:35, has the church (locally/globally) been helpful ambassadors of Jesus in the world? Why?
3. How might our church be better able to make 'the other' feel welcome?

Disagreement: Acts 15:36-41

Context:

Barnabas and Paul were partners in ministry.

- Barnabas stood by his side as companion and mentor (Acts 9:26-30). Later, the two
- Both were commissioned for the first intentional missionary enterprise. (Acts 13 -14).
- They convinced the apostles that Gentiles must be admitted to the church without having to keep all the laws of Moses (Acts 15).

Paul suggested a follow-up missionary tour and Barnabas proposed that John Mark should accompany them. Paul adamantly refused, considering Mark to be unreliable because he did not stay the course on their first mission. Following a heated quarrel, the two partners separated.

Questions arising:

1. In the context of what we have discussed, how do you think Paul and Barnabas handled the disagreement?
2. What does it look like when people leave the church for issues such as the time of the service changing or songs/hymns not being to their liking?
3. How should our church leaders respond when there are divisions in the church?

John 13:34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 15:9-17

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

John 17: 20-23

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 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. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.