

United: Church



MAIN POINT:

Let's make Jesus' prayer our first priority.

KEY VERSE:

"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 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. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—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." John 17:20-23

BRING IT UP:

On Sunday, Pastor Nick concluded our United series by talking about a united church. In all of the division going on in our world today, the church simply cannot be divided because a divided church is an ineffective church. A divided church is a defeated church. For a long time, churches have been divisive on things that don't truly matter. We learned about how we can put our personal preferences aside and focus on what truly matters: The Gospel and people's need for a Savior. Specifically, we learned to put the right person on the pedestal, take responsibility for your role and marry the message not the method. At the end of the day, what will you do to make us better together?

- ◆ What was your biggest takeaway from the message Sunday?
- ◆ Out of the 4 United weeks, which message was the most impactful to you and why?

TALK IT OVER:

In a world that is as divided as it has ever been, unfortunately, many church's follow suit. Nick talked about some of the outrageous things churches have split over and how that is missing the point by a longshot. Church's aren't meant to be competing with one another, but instead, working together for the common good of bringing the gospel to all people!

- ◆ In what way have you seen or experienced the negative impact a divided Church can have on unbelievers?

[Read John 17:20-23]

- ◆ What is the key to unlocking unity according to these verses?
- ◆ What is the significance of Jesus praying not only for His disciples but for all of those who would believe in Him in the future?

THINK IT THROUGH:

Put the right person on the pedestal

- ◆ In what way does the cattle ranch story portray the negative effects of a divided church?
- ◆ Describe how the punchline of "None survived the branding" relates to the state of the Church today?

Take the responsibility for your role

- ◆ What are some ways that you can make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit according to Ephesians 4:3?

Marry the message not the method

- ◆ Are you someone who is okay with change or do you generally like things the way they are?
- ◆ Of what value is there to changing methods of ministry?

WORK IT OUT:

Recall the Calgary Stampede story Nick told Sunday morning. The winning horse pulled 9k pounds while the runner-up pulled 8. However, together, they pulled 30k pounds! This is an image of the type of impact the Church could have if we are unified around the foundation of the gospel!

- ◆ What are some ways that you can pray for and participate in the unity of the Church?