

# Discussion Questions

September 14, 2025



## Belong: Love One Another

Jesus's kingdom is built not on uniformity but on a profound unity demonstrated by our sacrificial love for one another, especially amidst our differences. This love, centered on Jesus (the "well") rather than our own doctrinal fences, is our most powerful witness to a divided world.

### 1. Jesus's Prayer for Unity - John 17:20, 23 (NLT)

*"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message... May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me."*

- Jesus prays for our "perfect unity" to be a sign to the world. What do you think this "perfect unity" looks like in a real, messy church community?

- Does unity mean we must all agree on everything? Why is unity amidst diversity a more powerful witness than uniformity (everyone being the same)?

### 2. Jesus's Command to Love - Luke 6:27-28, 32 & John 13:34-35 (NLT)

*"But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you... If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them!"*

*"So now I am giving you a new commandment: love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

- What makes Jesus's command to love "new"? How is loving "as I have loved you" a higher and more difficult standard?

- Discuss why these passages are so radical in comparison to much of modern Christianity. What would it look like practically if modern Christians took Jesus' words seriously?

### 3. James used the analogy of sports and political "teams" to describe the divisions we create. In what areas of your life do you feel the strongest pull to pick a side and see the "other team" as either low IQ or immoral?

- How does the gospel challenge this instinct?

- Discuss the metaphor of building "fences" (or walls) vs. digging a "well."

- What are some "fences" (secondary doctrines, cultural preferences, political stances) that churches sometimes build that can keep people out?

- What does it mean for us, as a church and as individuals, to focus on being a "well" that draws people to the life-giving water of Jesus?

4. What does it look like for us today to stand in the tension of the Jews & Gentiles together as one body and fight to love one another well? Is this even possible? Was Jesus just using hyperbole?
5. Draw people to the well: This isn't just about evangelism, but allowing people to "taste the beauty of Jesus" in you. In your interactions this week - at work, with family, at church, or online, what does it look like to live in such a way that people are drawn to the well?

**John 17:20 (NLT)**

*I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.*

**John 17:23 (NLT)**

*May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.*

**Luke 6:27-28 (NLT)**

*But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.*

**Luke 6:32 (NLT)**

*If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them!*

**John 13:34–35 (NLT)**

*So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

**Matthew 22:37–39 (NLT)**

*'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

**Romans 14:1 (CSB)**

*..don't argue about disputed matters.*

**We build wells instead of fences**

**Repent of Contempt for others.**

**Fast from Outrage.**

**Draw people to the well (especially believers)**