



STUDY GUIDE

August 8, 2021

Message Series:
Message Title:
Teaching Pastor:

Words to Live By
We Are All the Same
Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

What's the farthest you've ever been from home? What did you experience there? How did you feel about the differences there?

Pray:

Dear Lord, we praise You for the opportunity to worship and learn so freely. Help us to see what You see and to love like You love. At times we struggle to feel comfortable around others who may be different from us in some way, but we know that You made us all and call us to love one another. We trust in You to help us to stay sensitive to our reactions to others in Christ. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started:

- Did you grow up in a diverse neighborhood or school environment? What are the advantages of being part of a diverse community? How does it affect who you are today?

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (**Gal 3:26-28**, NIV)

"In Christ Jesus... "you". Paul makes his audience clear. He is talking to the church. Not people outside of the church. This is important because what Paul wants the church to know is that when they don't act like the people of God they are unattractive to those who still need to become people of God." -Pastor Brian Hughes

- How do many churches hold on to barriers even as they represent Christ? Give specific examples to support your viewpoints.

Watch and Discuss Video: (running time 13 minutes)

"Brothers and sisters, we have to stop dividing the church based on how WE see the world." -Pastor Brian Hughes

- Pastor Brian posed the following questions: Where am I harboring a dividing line or creating and/or fueling disunity in the church? How can we disagree and still build each other up? (Reflect 1-2 minutes silently before discussing in-depth).

Read Ephesians 2:14-22.

- Where does our unity come from as believers? How does it happen according to this passage?

Reflect and Commit:

“When we stop dividing ourselves we start reflecting the One who we have clothed ourselves with, stop tearing each other apart on social media and hiding behind our screens to create us and them and start building each other up. When we stop looking like everyone else in the world and start reflecting the One whose name we bear, we will achieve the one-ness that will attract people who are longing for something more...something better...something as free as pure love and lavish grace. That’s who we are supposed to be. It’s who we want to be.” -Pastor Brian Hughes

- How can you take action to step beyond your comfort zone in befriending Christians who are different from you?
- Is it possible to reflect the One whose name we bear if we are in division? What should the Church ideally look like to the world?

Read 1 John 3:11-16.

- What do you find most striking about this passage?

Read Galatians 4:7.

- How did the believers benefit by becoming part of God’s family? Knowing it applies to us today, how should it change our outlook on life?

Pray:

Dear Lord, help us to see ourselves and others the way You intended. Let us reflect You to a world that so badly needs You. Let our focus be on You, and let it affect the way we live daily. Thank you for loving us so lavishly. Remind us to give others the grace we so desperately need ourselves. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.