

# MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

AUG 15, 2021 // CHURCH: WHY BOTHER?

MARTY GRUBBS, *Senior Pastor*

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Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs returned to the pulpit and continued in the sermon series, I've Been Thinking, with a message about the church, our church. In addition to voting on bylaws, elders, and budgets, Marty spoke about the history and purpose of Crossings Community Church. As so often it does, the conversation turned to the topic of unity. Not just unity, but unity centered on Jesus, and with members filled with the Holy Spirit. This type of unity serves one another, with a common goal of making Jesus known.

## SCRIPTURE

### ACTS 2:41-47

*41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

### ROMANS 12:3-18

*For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8 the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. 9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What stood out today from Marty's message?
2. Read Acts 2:41-47. What do you learn about the early church from this passage?
3. Read Romans 12:3-18. What instructions does the Apostle Paul give for unity in the church? (Perhaps underline or circle each one in your bible)
4. Where do you see these gifts and attributes of the church being lived out well in the church (not just Crossings, but other churches you know)?
5. What happens when churches deviate from what is captured in these passages?
6. As you consider your own participation in the church, which of the attributes do you struggle with? How does this affect unity between you and others?
7. Which do you do well? Do you know your spiritual gift(s)? How does this build unity, and therefore, put the focus on Jesus?
8. How can we pray for you?

## **PRAYER**

Ask God to reveal your spiritual gifting and how you can contribute to your church. Review the instructions of unity and pray that God will encourage and equip you to live out the calling of unity with one another. Forgive and ask for forgiveness for situations where disunity and differences of opinion has affected your full participation in the church as God intended. Pray for the Spirit to guide you in your church experience, and to always remain focused and centered on Jesus.