

# Gifted

## Unity and Diversity – 1 Corinthians 12:12–26

### Message Reflection Guide

Seeing three large predatory animals cuddle and play together is extremely unusual. Yet this is precisely what happens daily in an animal sanctuary in Georgia. In 2001, after months of neglect and abuse, a lion, a Bengal tiger, and a black bear were rescued by Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary. "We could have separated them," said the assistant director. "But since they came as a kind of family, we decided to keep them together." The trio had found comfort in each other during their time of mistreatment, and, despite their differences, they live peacefully together.

Unity is a beautiful thing. But the unity Paul wrote about in his letter to the believers in Ephesus is unique. Paul encouraged the Ephesians to live up to their calling as members of one body in Christ (Ephesians. 4:4-5). By the power of the Holy Spirit they would be able to live in unity as they developed humility, gentleness, and patience. These attitudes also allow us to lovingly bear "with one another in love" through the common ground we have in Christ Jesus (4:2).– Marvin Williams

### Conversation Starter

How are unity and uniformity different? Why does the bible emphasize unity over uniformity?

### Getting Into The Scriptures Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Pastor Jason said "Unity and diversity of the gifts reminds of Who binds us." What happens when we become the focus of our works? What attitudes should inform our practice of the gifts?

Unity and diversity celebrates the work of the Holy Spirit. How do you feel the Holy Spirit has empowered you in the past to accomplish Kingdom work?

Unity and diversity celebrates the wisdom of God. In order to serve faithfully, we need to trust in God's wisdom and direction for our life. How easy or difficult is that for you and why?

Unity and diversity celebrates the love of Jesus. Why is it important that our acts of service and ministry be defined by love? What type of situation makes it difficult for you to serve with love?

**Making It Real** 1 Corinthians 12:26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. How can you be used to come alongside someone who is suffering? Who can you honor and thank this week?