

We Are the Church – What is the win?  
November 3, 2024

As you join this discussion, let the Holy Spirit guide you. Share your thoughts and reflect on the message. Work through the guide by reading Scripture and answering a few questions.

### **Open Up Together:**

- Can you think of a time when you felt a strong sense of unity with a group—maybe in your family, at work, or in a church setting? Or, on the flip side, a time when you felt the opposite? What do you think made the difference?

### **Read Together:**

#### **John 17:20-21**

*My prayer is not for them alone. 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....*

#### **Matthew 26:39**

*...“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”*

#### **John 17:21-23**

*...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.*

#### **1 Corinthians 1:10**

*I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.*

### **Discuss Together:**

- The message began by describing how Christianity has shifted from a movement to a philosophy to a business in different cultures. How have you seen this shift affect how people view and engage with the church today?

- Have you ever struggled to know what God wants you to do in a challenging situation? What helped you?
- The message mentions that the church is meant to reflect its environment. In what ways do you think our current culture is shaping the church, both positively and negatively?
- In John 17, Jesus prays that His followers will be one. Why do you think unity among believers was so important to Him, and how does that impact our approach to church life today?
- Jesus' prayers often reflect surrender to God's will rather than a list of requests. How might this perspective change the way we pray, especially for unity within the church?
- The message challenged us to "believe the best" in each other, especially during divisive times. What are some specific situations where this mindset could help prevent division in the church?
- How can we demonstrate love and understanding toward fellow Christians who may vote differently? What practical steps can we take to focus on our shared faith rather than political differences?
- Reflect on the statement "One is the win." How can we remember the church's mission when faced with temporary disagreements? How can focusing on Jesus and the gospel help us maintain unity?

**Pray Together:**

Pray for God to help us be united as His church. Pray for the grace to see the best in one another, even in our differences, and to reflect His love in all we do.