LIVING IN HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER

Small Group Discussion Guide | Romans 12:16; Acts 2:42–47

Opening Conversation

1. The sermon compared a musical chord with a church community: different notes can create harmony. When have you seen differences in personality, background, gifts, or perspective strengthen a church? When have you seen those same differences become a source of tension?

When Harmony Breaks Down

2. The sermon identified four ways pride threatens harmony: it makes us 1) assume our way is the only right way, 2) judge people who differ, 3) form sides, and 4) resist reconciliation. Which of these do you think is easiest for people to fall into? Why?
3. Think about a time when people in the church disagreed strongly. Without naming people or reopening old disputes, what helped preserve relationships? What made unity more difficult?
4. What are some subtle ways we form sides or create divisions within a church?

Holding Convictions with the Right Weight

5. The sermon described three categories: dogma (hold firmly), doctrine (hold thoughtfully), and opinion (hold loosely). How can we hold firmly to important convictions while remaining gracious toward Christians who disagree with us?
6. Have you ever strongly held a conviction, only to realize later that it was more of a personal preference than a biblical essential? What helped you recognize that?
7. Consider the difference between disagreeing about the resurrection of Jesus and disagreeing about whether to sing hymns or contemporary worship songs. Why is it important to recognize that not all disagreements carry the same weight? Can you think of any other examples?

Practicing Humility

8. The sermon described listening as one way to grow in humility. What does it look like to listen to understand someone rather than simply preparing a response? What makes that difficult?
9. What questions could we ask someone whose views are different from ours to better understand where they are coming from?
10. When pride has damaged a relationship, what might a humble first step look like? This could include acknowledging our part, offering an apology without excuses, or taking a step toward reconciliation. How have you seen reconciliation contribute to living in harmony?

The Result of Harmony

11. Read Acts 2:42–47. What stands out to you about the way this community shared life together? How might a church's unity and care for one another become a witness to people around it?
12. The worship service concluded with communion, participating in the Lord's Supper together. In what way does this ordinance unify God's people? How have you experienced this?

Personal Response

Take a quiet moment to reflect: Where might I be holding too tightly to my own preference, assuming the worst about someone who differs, or waiting for someone else to make the first move?

Some things are worth standing for. Some things are worth discussing. And some things are worth letting go.