

“One Another” Series

Week 07 : Harmonize with One Another

Check In:

Take a few moments to check in with each other –

The first seven months of 2020 have been, well, extremely unpredictable. What would be your prayer and hope for the remainder of the year?

Discussion Questions: “Harmonize With One Another”

- [1] Think about our world for a moment — in what areas of life do you observe people struggling the most to live in harmony?
- [2] Can you think of an example where someone you know put aside their own differences in order to cooperate or be at peace with someone else?
- [3] What skills or practices would be most helpful to develop in order to ‘agree to disagree agreeably’ with those around us?
- [4] Occasionally, a well-timed conversation helps us stay in harmony with others. Which of these types of conversations do you find most helpful, and which do you find most challenging?
- [5] Read Romans 12:16-18 [NLT] together and then discuss:

“Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all! Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.”

- : What is most frustrating to you about a know-it-all? [and for extra credit, answer this — Have you ever acted like one?]
- : What can be most consistently challenging about living honorably?

- [6] Leonard Bernstein was once asked which instrument was most difficult to play. He thought for a moment then said, *“Second fiddle. I can get plenty of first violinists, but to find someone who can play the second fiddle with enthusiasm – well, that’s a problem. And if we have no second fiddle, we have no harmony.”*

As you consider Bernstein’s response, what do you respect most about someone who is willing to “play second fiddle” in a relationship? Do you believe deferring to another person indicates weakness or reveals strength?

[7] Take a moment to reflect on our nation and world over the past few months — where have you seen pride promote a spirit of disunity? If you could speak to what you've seen, what would you kindly attempt to say?

[8] Let's get gut-level honest ... sometimes it's easy to examine what's wrong with everyone else in the world without making it personal. In his message, Pastor Steve said, "Some hills simply aren't worth dying for." Is there an issue in your life where you need to settle down and simply allow others to have a different opinion?

[9] Reflect for a moment on the answers your group gave to question number eight, then take time before you close to pray for each other. Ask God to help you discern what issues are important and necessary to speak up about, and what issues are simply personal preferences where harmony would be a more God-honoring focus.