

5

Being 'Church'

What is the difference between unity and uniformity?

What do you think of the following statement?

"There can be no unity without truth, forgiveness and reconciliation."

5. Church is a united community

Key idea

What did you think was the most important point made in the sermon on this topic?

Were there any issues raised in the sermon that you'd like to discuss further?

Clarifying the message

Read Philippians 2:1-13

- Verse 1 makes four statements that are true for a Christian:
 - (i) we are united with Christ, and this is encouraging;
 - (ii) we are comforted by his love;
 - (iii) we sharers in his Spirit (and so have fellowship with him);
 - (v) we have compassion and sympathy.

Are these true of you? If so, how do you experience them?

- If these things are true, then what actions and attitudes towards one another does Paul insist must follow? (Phil 2:2-4)
- What attitude does this require? (See Phil 2:5-11)
- How do you develop such an attitude? (see also Phil 2:12-13)

Living the Message

- How do you resolve conflict with another Christian?
- What helps and what hinders in the process of reconciliation with another Christian?
- What difference would it make for our church to be a united church?
- What are we to be united about?
- How can you contribute to our being a united church?