

## TAKING IT HOME

1. When it comes to the non-essential things Christians fight over, people are tempted to set themselves up as “spiritual watch dogs” (checking up on other people’s behavior) or “pit bulls” (not letting go of a pet belief). If you’ve ever experienced someone playing one of these roles in your life, what happened in that situation and how did you respond/feel?

As you look at your own life, can you think of times when you’ve made the mistake of playing either of these roles in other people’s lives?

Read **Matthew 7:1-5**. What insights do you find relating to what you’ve been reading?

Spend some time praying together that we might experience more of God’s unity in our diverse congregation.

## DIVIDED BY PRIDE

### WHY CHRISTIAN UNITY?

1 Corinthians 1:10

*“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. 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. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” John 17:20–23*

### WHAT’S GOING ON?

1 Corinthians 1:11-17

### WHAT DOES CHRISTIAN UNITY LOOK LIKE?

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34–35*

## Growth Group Homework

For the Week of October 9, 2011

**QUICK REVIEW:** Look back at your notes from this Sunday's teaching. Was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question?

### MY STORY

1. In what ways are you grateful for the diversity God has given us as a church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How have you personally benefited from the diversity?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. This Sunday we saw the importance of maintaining unity with other believers. In **Ephesians 4:1-6**, Paul addresses the issue of Christian unity. What kind of attitudes and actions does Paul write about that are needed to maintain Christian unity?

As you look at your list, are there any of these attitudes or actions that you need to work on or are lacking in your life? Explain.

2. Read **Ephesians 4:7-13**. How does this passage express the idea that unity can and does include a whole lot of diversity?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Read **Romans 14:1-23**. In this passage, Paul gives some suggestions for ways to work through the kinds of issues that often divide Christians. What are the controversial issues that the church in Rome was dealing with, and what was their impact on the church?

What remedies does Paul give to work the issues so Christian unity can be restored?

If you have ever seen or found yourself in a similar situation, what did you find helpful in the way it was handled? What did you wish would have happened differently?