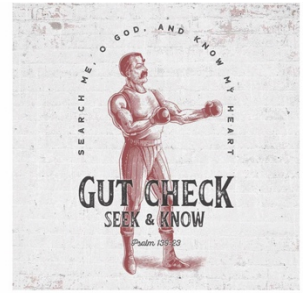


OCTOBER 4, 2020 • DAVID SMITH

Our Commitment to Unity

With so much going on around us, we can't lose track of what's going on within us. A "gut check" is a pause to assess the state, progress, or condition of something. Let's assess the different facets of our relationship with God, and check if we've got what it takes.



INTRODUCTION

Pastor David reminded us that we have one enemy, the devil, whose strategy is to divide us. We are, however, united by the love of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

STARTER QUESTION

GOD is alive!!! Pastor David gave us a couple of examples of why 2020 is not a loss. How many things can you think of that validate that 2020 was not a loss to you and/or in your life? What word might you choose for your own "Word of 2020" and why?

INTO THE WORD

The evil one is always trying to infiltrate our lives in so many different ways. Jesus teaches us that the evil one wants to attack us and separate us from God when we are at our most vulnerable place. There are many places in scripture where God tells us how to have confidence in these times. Look up the following verses and think of how you can apply them in your life. Refer to Joshua 1:9, Psalms 56:3, Psalms 62:5-8, and Romans 8:38-39. Share a scripture passage that you turn to when you feel the enemy near.

Read Hebrews 11:1. Pastor David's "Gut Check" series centered around where we are in our personal walk with God. As you consider your relationship with the Lord, what does unity mean to you? Why is unity so important to God? What role does our faith play in being unified?

Read Romans 16:17. What forces, practices, or institutions in our culture cause obstacles and create division in our lives and in our world? What steps can you take to create unity and love within your circles? How can you let God's light shine through you to unite others?

APPLICATION

The pandemic has made it difficult for people to interact in the same ways we could in the past. Have you been able to do God's work of leading people to God regardless of this situation? If yes, tell us how you went about it.

Give a few examples of being agreeable versus simply agreeing with someone. Explain the concepts of essentials and non-essentials and how both can help us to focus on unity. Can you think of a few practical ways to live in a unified way within the church? Can you describe a time in which you have "agreed to disagree" and mended a relationship or made it stronger?

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray that as we go through this week, we remember Your Words and Promises to us, that You will always protect us and guide us. Help us to mend divisions in our own lives and provide us with wisdom on how to seek unity in daily decisions and redeem 2020 as a year of His grace, power, healing, and love. Amen