

Putting it all back together

Ephesians 1:1-14

Division and Separation

Sometimes it is good to divide and separate.

Sometimes it isn't.

What is God's work in the world? And in the Church?

And what are we to do?



Ephesians 1:1-14

1-2: Greeting

3-6: Blessed by the Father

7-12: Redeemed through the Son

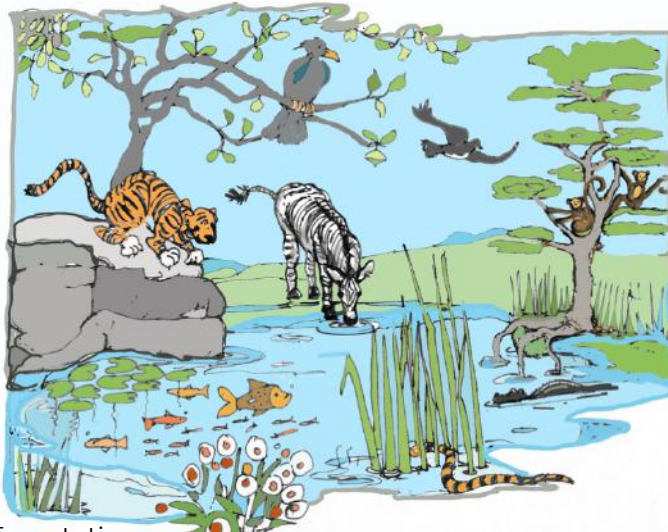
13-14: Sealed by the Spirit

The Big Idea

Christians are central in God's work to bring all things in all creation to unity in Christ

Ecosystem

Diverse organisms that survive and flourish by depending upon each other and their surroundings



Human Temptation

Divide and separate:

Things that make us uncomfortable

Things that are different from us

Things we can see problems in

God's Purpose

To unite all things (heaven and earth) in Christ

Led by the one Church

Not...

"Everyone is saved"

Rather...

Everyone and everything will submit to God, fitting into His design

Those in Christ → in glory for glory

Those not in Christ → in judgment

What should we do?

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called to **one hope** when you were called; **one Lord**, **one faith**, **one baptism**; **one God and Father of all**, who is over all and through all and in all." Ephesians 4:2-6

Proclaim and show the purpose of God to bring all things into His unity under Christ

"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will **fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel**, for which I am an ambassador in chains." Ephesians 6:19-20

that we might be to the praise of His glory

by being rescued and glorified in Christ

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Where do you face the temptation to divide and separate when we should be making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit?
2. How are we to seek unity in Christ when we all fall short?
3. What does it look like for us to seek unity among all Christ's people?

Conversation starters

How do you make sense of our divisive world?

What would be a good way to work toward a good unity?