

Session Four Handout: We are One Body

Opening Prayer

Gracious and life-giving God, we gather together as your people, heirs to your promise. Help us to hear and hold one another in love as we talk about those things that have separated us from one another and you. Guide us as we remember that your vision for us is to be one body, one in Christ, one with each other. Amen.

One in Christ

Galatians 3:27-29

²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Reflection:

- What does it mean to you to be one in Christ?
- What does it look like to live as if we are one in Christ?
- We are reminded in Paul's letter to the Galatians that we are no longer divided, but one in Christ. Where do we still see, hear, or participate in the separation of male and female?

We Are One Body

WE BELIEVE we are one body. In Christ, there is to be no oppression based on race, gender, identity, or class (Galatians 3:28). The body of Christ, where those great human divisions are to be overcome, is meant to be an example for the rest of society. When we fail to overcome these oppressive obstacles, and even perpetuate them, we have failed in our vocation to the world—to proclaim and live the reconciling gospel of Christ.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT misogyny, the mistreatment, violent abuse, sexual harassment, and assault of women that has been further revealed in our culture and politics, including our churches, and the oppression of any other child of God. We lament when such practices seem publicly ignored, and thus privately condoned, by those in high positions of leadership. We stand for the respect, protection, and affirmation of women in our families, communities, workplaces, politics, and churches. We support the courageous truth-telling voices of women, who have helped the nation recognize these abuses. We confess sexism as a sin, requiring our repentance and resistance.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we come together, reminded that we are no longer separate, but that we have been baptized into one body with you and with each other. Bless us as we leave this place, that we may engage in the work and ministry of being one, of being equal, of being whole. We are all made in your image as amazing, unique individuals, belonging to you and to each other, working toward oneness and wholeness. Amen.