

SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

DISCUSSION GUIDE
MARCH 6th, 2016

“Undivided” | Revelation 7:9-17; Galatians 3:28; Revelation 21:24

GETTING STARTED: What Christ-following friends do you have that live in another culture/country? What unique cultural practices have you seen that were a part of their life of faith?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE:

1. Brooks mentioned three highly debated topics – pro-life/pro-choice, marriage equality/marriage sanctity and whether scientists should/shouldn't use stem cells. Why are these topics (and others like them) the source of “cultural shouting matches?” Where and when do these shouting matches take place? How should a Christ-follower participate?
2. There are many cultural items that divide us (sex, religious diversity, injustice, racism, bioethics, etc.). How can we live into the reconciliation that wants to unite us in his Son?
3. How can a church increase its impact to “all nations?” How can that take place in Springfield? The world?
4. Read Revelation 7:9. Brooks asked the question, “Who are *these* people?” How does Ephesians 1:13-14 help answer that question?
5. Summarize the cultural impact of Galatians 3:28 to its original audience. What truth does this speak to us today?
6. How did the cultural images (Cambodian greetings, Kenyan dances, etc.) shared in service impact you? What experience do you have with Christ-followers in another culture? In what ways are you challenged by a multi-cultural vision of the Kingdom of God?

7. How do John's images in Revelation challenge or encourage you as you live out Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8?

8. God wants to heal our divisions, especially in and through the church. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17. How do Paul's words to a divided church challenge us today? What does Paul suggest as the primary unifier for the church? How should that drown out all other “shouting matches?” Can a church exist with no divisions?

APPLY THE TRUTH:

Continue to reflect upon the “Who?” question on the Mapping My Spheres spreadsheet on the back of this page. Who might you be able to stand “undivided” with if you were to allow God to heal a relational division. Also, begin to answer the question, “How will I influence the people and culture of this sphere?” How can you best use your time to help build a body of described in Revelation 7:9-17?

PRAY:

Our “Mission of the Month” is the Dillon Family serving in Dresden, Germany. Ryan and Elyse (and their son Oliver) are getting ready to welcome a new baby into their home in mid-March. Pray for their impact in Germany, while thanking God for the role they are playing in building up an “undivided” body of believers.

NOTES:

Mapping My Spheres

Spheres	When and where do I already intersect with this sphere?	Who do I already know in this sphere?	How will I influence the people and culture of this sphere?
<i>Arts/Media</i>			
<i>Business</i>			
<i>Education</i>			
<i>Government/ Politics</i>			
<i>Science/Medicine/ Technology</i>			
<i>Family</i>			
<i>Religion</i>			

Don't worry – it doesn't have to be perfect! This worksheet will be available each week during our "Spheres of Influence" sermon series. You can use the same one each week or start fresh as you expand your understanding of your spheres of influence.