



Sermon Discussion Guide

Oct. 11 & 12, 2025

"Why Are There So Many Denominations?"

[Ephesians 4:1-6](#)

This five-part series in our year-long theme **52 Questions for 2025** explores what we believe and why. Over the next few weeks, we'll look at what sets Christianity apart, why there are so many denominations, what we believe about the Reformation and the church, and how faith compares to atheism and agnosticism. Join us each week as we take a closer look at what we believe.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [hopeonline.tv](#). Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [Ephesians 4:1-6](#) – "Unity in the Body"

- Paul repeats "one body...one Spirit...one Lord...one faith...one baptism." Where do you see Christians acting like one family?
- When you think "one glorious hope," what common hope do you share with believers who worship or practice differently than you?
- "One God and Father of all" lifts our eyes from us to him. Where have you made faith about your group's way instead of God's?
- Unity isn't uniformity; it's many parts moving together. Where do our church's strengths complement the gifts of another congregation?

Read [John 15:5](#) – "Jesus, the True Vine"

- Jesus describes himself as the vine and us as the branches. What do you think it means to "remain" in him in your everyday life?
- "Apart from me, you can do nothing." How have you experienced this truth in real ways—through success or struggle?
- Jesus says those who remain in him "produce much fruit." What kind of fruit do you see God producing through your life or your group?
- Remaining in Jesus keeps your spiritual life alive and fruitful. What are some ways you drift from abiding—busyness, distraction, or self-reliance? How could you reorder your rhythms this week (time, habits, or priorities) to stay connected to Christ daily?

Read [1 Corinthians 12:12, 27](#) – "One Body with Many Parts"

- Paul compares the church to a human body made up of many parts. When you think about the people in your church or small group, what unique roles do you notice? How do you contribute to the health of the body? What happens when one part stops functioning?
- "The body has many parts, but one body." Why do you think God designed the church with such diversity of gifts and personalities?
- Verse 27 says, "All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it." How does that truth change how you view people you might overlook or disagree with in your church? What helps you remember that their presence is essential, not optional?
- How might working together in love and humility give people outside the church a more accurate picture of Jesus?

Read [Colossians 3:14](#) – "Living the New Life"

- Paul calls love "the perfect bond of unity." How does love function as the "glue" that holds people together when opinions differ?
- Why do you think Paul links love to unity rather than agreement?
- Love that unites is more than emotion—it's a daily decision. How can you intentionally practice this kind of love this week?
- What witness does it give when believers love across denominations, generations, or cultures?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week.

- **Live in the bond of love.** Choose one relationship where love has grown distant—perhaps through frustration, misunderstanding, or neglect. Pray daily for that person, asking God to renew your compassion. Then take one simple step of kindness toward them.
- **Bridge the divide.** Reach out to someone from a different generation, culture, or church background and share a meal, coffee, or prayer together. As you listen to their story, focus on what unites you in Christ rather than what separates you. Reflect afterward on how that experience reshaped your understanding of Christian unity.
- **Pursue Christlike harmony.** Commit to being a peacemaker in your sphere of influence—your workplace, family, or church. When disagreements arise, be the first to listen, forgive, and lead with love. Before speaking or posting about divisive issues, pause to pray: "Will this build up the body of Christ?" Then act or speak only if the answer is yes.