



- Think about a time you tried a new hobby, started a new job or joined a new group. What made you feel like you truly belonged, or, conversely, were really out of place?
- We talked about the essential beliefs of Christianity being:
 - *God the Father made this world.*
 - *Our sin separates us from God.*
 - *Jesus lived, was crucified and rose again.*
 - *Only through Jesus we can be reconciled to God.*
 - *The Holy Spirit indwells and empowers believers.*

And we called beliefs/doctrine/theology not included here “non-essential.” Share about your own experience in the church when it comes to the non-essentials. Do you have any examples of a belief that you were taught was an essential tenet of Christianity that you no longer see as such?

- Have you ever (or know someone who has) felt ostracized, judged or excluded by a church because of their beliefs? Share about that. How do you feel about CrossWinds being a church where “Unity doesn’t mean uniformity”? What are some of the inherent strengths and challenges with how we do church this way?
- Can you think of a "non-essential" belief (either from the message or one of your own) that you hold strongly? How does the idea of others having different, but equally Spirit-led, convictions about that issue resonate with you?
- **Philippians 2:1-2** points to several "road signs" for unity, including "like-mindedness" being rooted in union with Christ. What does it practically look like to filter our thoughts and beliefs through Jesus as our common denominator?
- Another “road sign” was about having the “same love.” We talked about how disagreement on non-essentials tends to be a "love problem" not a "theology problem." When have you seen this play out, either in your own life or in the church at large?

- The passage indicates that being "one in spirit" means trusting that the Holy Spirit leads each of us in our convictions, even if we come to different conclusions. What challenges or freedoms does this understanding bring to how you engage with other Christians who hold different views?
- The final "road sign" discussed was being "of one mind," meaning to have a common purpose of pointing people to Jesus, driven by "tenderness and compassion." How can we, as a group and as individuals, better embody tenderness and compassion, especially towards those we disagree with, both inside and outside the church?
- What next step can you take to be more fully engaged in this work of unity at CrossWinds?