

# ONE IN CHRIST

## CENTRAL TRUTH

In this week's passage, Paul reminds believers that our differences are not removed once we place our trust in Jesus. But our differences do not define who is and isn't a part of God's family. While God's people are a diverse group, **in Christ, we are united as children within God's family**—and no one is superior to anyone else.

## KEY QUESTION

🔍 **How does verse 28 speak to our differences as believers while also emphasizing our unity in Christ?**

As you can imagine, these barriers were significant in the ancient world. And in many ways, ethnic, social, and gender barriers continue to plague us today. Paul wanted his readers to know that there is no group superior to another, and believers are unified, or “one,” in Christ, despite our distinctions.

## KEEP IN MIND

- 📌 In this passage, Paul mentions slavery. If students inquire more about this, it's important to note that this practice was not race based, unlike our history of slavery in the United States. Some slaves were well educated, serving as teachers, doctors, and so on; yet the mistreatment of slaves was rampant in the ancient world.<sup>1</sup> Paul's point in mentioning this group is to emphasize that believers are spiritually equal and unified despite distinctions.
- 📌 There is no shortage of labels that students receive in today's culture. This week's passage presents us with the opportunity to remind students that they are adopted children within God's family and that the new identity they've received in Christ is the most important thing about them. The **Exploration Tip** offers additional labels that Scripture uses for believers.

## APPLICATION

- 📌 **What are some ways we see disunity among believers? How can we regularly pray to the Lord to help us love one another?**

## THE WIN

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Despite our many differences, believers are unified in Christ and children within God's family. This reality should shape the way we treat one another.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Students are likely aware of the immense division in our culture. Encourage them to be peacemakers and people who practice unity in Christ as a means of attracting others to the good news.

## 7 ARROWS

- 🔄 What does this passage say?
- ⬆️ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ⬅️ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ↔️ How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
- ⬇️ What does this passage tell us about the human heart?
- 🔄 How does this passage prompt me to pray?
- ➔️ What does this passage demand of me?

<sup>1</sup> Thomas R. Schreiner, *1 & 2 Peter and Jude*, Christian Standard Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2020), Logos Bible Software version, 149.