**Sermon Date:** Jan 17, 2021

**Series:** United In Christ

**Scripture:**  I Cor 12: 13 ESV

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

**Big Idea:**  We are united in Christ THROUGH BEING PLUNGED BY ONE SPIRIT into ONE BODY: Thus, our identity is as a member of Christ’s body, and our responsibility is to care for, listen to, and bear with others.

**Summary:**

The Corinthians were a diverse and yet divided bunch: They carved identities for themselves based on their favorite teacher; their secondary beliefs and matters of conscience; their ethnicities; their social status; their occupations. Paul describes how, THROUGH THE SPIRIT that brought them to faith in Christ and gave them new life—they have a new, central identity and that as a member of Christ’s body. With this identity then comes the responsibility to care for others tangibly, to listen to them, and, as unity draws us closer—to bear with their differences and weaknesses,

**Questions:**

1. What are some secondary identities (that is, identities other than “Child of God” and member of Christ’s body) you have and/or that you have seen others around you adopt?
2. What difficulties can arise in our personal lives and in our relationships when we make secondary identities our primary identities?
3. In secular society, we see people who make sports and politics their central identifies. What kinds of behavior does a sports or political-centric identity create? What examples do worldly minded people on TV and internet sites set? How are we called to be different?
4. It’s not *wrong* to have secondary identities; in fact, it’s the mark of a cult to require rigid conformity in matters of personality and conscience. In contrast to cultish conformity, as Randy preached, God does not “dilute our diversity” when he places us in the body of Christ; put another way, in Christ, who we really are is HYDRATED not HOMOGENIZED; why is it healthy and important that people still enjoy and express their individual personalities and backgrounds within the body of Christ?
5. How is God challenging you in terms of your primary identity through this sermon? How is God challenging you to care, listen, and bear with others?