

EKKLESIA

PART 6: EKKLESIA: THE ENEMY WITHIN

Jesus prayed for his first century and 21st century followers, and what was his greatest concern? Or another way of saying it is, what do you think Jesus thought was the greatest threat to this brand-new movement as it rolled out, not just in his generation, but in the generations to come? What did he see as the greatest threat to the Jesus movement? We're about to find out today, and it is so important.

CONNECT

In your opinion, what is the greatest threat to the church in the United States?

LEARN

Before watching the video together and discussing the questions provided, we suggest taking a few moments to pray. Here's a simple prayer you can use:

APPLY

After sharing what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. What is a “secondary” issue that you struggle to keep from being primary? Why?
2. Do you currently see a group of people as “bad” because they see things differently than you? How can you choose to be unified with believers who have a different perspective??
3. Read **John 17:20–21** aloud. What stands out to you? Why would Jesus prioritize the idea of “being one”? Why is disunity such a great enemy?
4. In the full message, Andy provides three next steps. Which one of these stands out to you as an opportunity to improve?
 - • Pledge loyalty to Jesus over country.
 - • Don't allow a secondary issue to become your primary issue.
 - • Refuse to demonize anyone for any reason.

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WRAP-UP

Throughout this series, we've looked at what the ekklesia was/is/could be. Take some time this week to reflect on what you've learned from this series. Ask yourself, How am I participating in my local church, and where could I participate even more.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank you for the church, the ekklesia, your movement that began with your Son, Jesus, in the first century. We ask that you would embolden us to participate in this movement. Give us the courage to choose to represent Jesus well through the ekklesia wherever we go—in our families, at work, and within friend groups. Amen.