# Church Cliques

**Adam Willingham** · Galatians 3:26–28

## INTRODUCTION

- Oftentimes we are those little blue birds. And within a congregation, forming groups that look alike and act alike and talk alike.
- The most basic definition is a small exclusive group of people. Is it wrong within a church? My judgment is that it is at least dangerous. And at the most, it is sinful.

## 1 What a Clique Is Not

- A clique is not a close group of friends.
- That's just natural for interaction for people to gravitate towards one another who have like interests and so on.
- Remember the definition of a clique is a small exclusive group.

## 2 We Are All One in Christ Jesus

**Galatians 3:26–28; Ephesians 4:1–4; 1 Corinthians 1:10**

- There is neither Jew nor Greek. There is neither slave nor free. There is neither male nor female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- The basis of our relationships in the church should not be sports or age. It should be Jesus Christ.
- To forget that we are one in Christ Jesus is to open the door of division wide open.
- Cliques lead to factions. Factions can split a church in half.

## 3 Put the Needs of Others Before Our Own

**Philippians 2:3–8**

- Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit. But in lowliness of mind, esteem others as more important than yourselves.
- We must put the needs of others before our own needs.
- Cliques can be a security blanket, but that's no excuse for ignoring the needs of others.
- If Jesus Christ could leave heaven and dwell on earth and die on the cross, then I think that we can reach across the aisle to people that we don't feel comfortable with.

## 4 Pride Causes Personal Favoritism

**James 2:1–4; Romans 12:16**

- Pride is what causes personal favoritism.
- We are guilty of personal favoritism when we do not associate with the lowly.
- Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly.

## 5 Cliques Can Lead to Many Unintended Consequences

**Hebrews 10:24–25**

- Church cliques provide less opportunity for relationship building.
- If we don't know one another, how are we going to know the needs of one another?
- Church cliques often alienate visitors and new members.
- Church cliques can foster an atmosphere of bitterness.

## 6 The Attitude of Those Who Are Excluded

**John 7:24; Ephesians 4:31**

- It is possible to think that a clique exists when it does not.
- Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.
- If that is the real situation, no matter what, you must refrain from bitterness.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **And most importantly, always put the needs of others before your own needs.**

MY NOTES