



## One

September 4, 2022

1 John 4:17-21 (MSG)

### Connect

- U2's *One* was the Broadway member submitted song of focus for the final week of our sermon series, "Then Sings My Soul: Finding Sacred Hope in Secular Music." If you have familiarity with the song, speak to your memories of it. Pull up the song on the streaming source of your choosing and play it for the group. Share initial impressions. Name what sticks out to you and why.

### Engage

- Read *1 John 4:17-21 (MSG)*. As the three short epistles of John are placed at the end of the Bible just ahead of Revelation, they tend to get overlooked. The idea that "God is love," however often gets quoted. It doesn't say that God *shows* love or even God *embodies* love. It says God *IS* love. Discuss the implications.
- What other words or phrases from this passage stick out to you? Name why such is powerful for you.
- Bono discovered his band mates and his future wife while a teenager in school. Those relationships shaped the rest of his life. What encounters early in your life impacted your journey in such a way?
- Eugene Peterson, translator of *The Message* and author of many theological books (*and late in life friend of Bono*) wrote, "The two most difficult things to get straight in life are love and God. More often than not the mess people make of their lives can be traced to failure or stupidity or meanness in one or both of those areas." Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Bono sings, "We are one but we are not the same." How does this connect to the relationships in your life? What are the implications for the Church?
- Loyalty to denomination, placing membership in a local church, and even claiming a Christian faith, have diminished every decade since the 1940's. With a larger push in this diminishing reality thanks to the pandemic, the influence of the church in society is waning. Is part of the church's labor of love to shift its current practices, focus and culture to connect with a new generation? If so, what sacrifices do you foresee the current church needs to make to connect anew?

### Next Steps

- Download U2's *One* and listen to it several times through. Listen to various versions and covers if you wish. U2's collaboration with Mary J. Blige was the version used in worship. Each time you listen, pull out words, phrases or ideas as you hear it and reflect further on what is being said. Feel the music and discern how it makes you feel. What of this song might shape your life moving forward in a positive way?

### Pray

"The sacred and secular dance together at all times, God. Thank you for moving through a lyric or a riff in a way that gets right to our souls. Music is so often the direct beat of our spirits. Keep us leaning in and living eyes and ears forward. Guide us in this labor of love you call us to live every day. Amen."

## ONE: U2

Is it getting better?  
Or do you feel the same?  
Will it make it easier on you now?  
You got someone to blame  
You say, one love, one life  
When it's one need in the night  
One love, we get to share it  
Leaves you baby if you don't care for it  
Did I disappoint you?  
Or leave a bad taste in your mouth?  
You act like you never had love  
And you want me to go without  
Well it's too late tonight  
To drag the past out into the light  
We're one but we're not the same  
We get to carry each other, carry each other  
One!  
Have you come here for forgiveness?  
Have you come to raise the dead?  
Have you come here to play Jesus?  
To the lepers in your head  
Did I ask too much? More than a lot  
You gave me nothin' now it's all I got  
We're one but we're not the same  
Well we hurt each other then we do it again  
You say love is a temple, love a higher law  
Love is a temple, love the higher law  
You ask me to enter but then you make me crawl  
And I can't be holdin' on to what you got  
When all you got is hurt  
One love, one blood  
One life, you got to do what you should  
One life, with each other  
Sisters, brothers  
One life but we're not the same  
We get to carry each other, carry each other  
One  
One