

Christopher Bowman, "A Distinguished Sound," pages 24-30

1. What kinds of divides exist in your congregation? Do generations think differently? What about insiders and outsiders? In what ways do these groups think differently about: family, church, education, politics, and change? Why do they all want to be part of the Church of the Brethren?
2. What are the benefits of having a variety of views in a single congregation? What are the drawbacks? Would you personally prefer a range of beliefs in your congregation or a group that is united in its thinking. Why?
3. When is the church too diverse? When is it too unified? How do we strike a balance? What are some of the common values that hold the church together?
4. Chris Bowman wonders, "Is it possible for people of faith to just do things, generation after generation, without really knowing why?" Some age-old practices in the church are beloved and meaningful rituals. Some have become ruts. What keeps practices such as worship, love feast, annual conference, and Bible study alive and meaningful for you?