UPDATED!

What is a Christian Union (CU)?

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What is a CU?
A group of Christians from different church backgrounds who are united together in Jesus.

Fact: *Daniel and his three friends formed one of the earliest CUs when they were educated in the 'College of Babylon' (Check out Daniel 1!)*

What is the point of a CU?

GROW

To fall more in love with Jesus as a group so that His love compels you to...

GO

Represent Him in all you say and do!

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Fact: *The word 'compels' (in Greek) means to be squeezed. So just as a wet bar of soap in your hands can't help but ping out; the more you're gripped by Jesus, the more you naturally can't stop talking about Him!*

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What should a CU do?

A healthy balance of IN, UP, OUT!

IN

Meeting each week to encounter Jesus in the Scriptures! Discovering more of God's love for you and for your College/Sixth Form

UP

Praying for each other, praying for your friends, praying for God's power at work where you study!

OUT

Seeking to share God's love through: your lifestyle; your friendships; chatting naturally about Jesus and putting on CU events that enable people to hear and explore more about Him.

Why bother with a CU?

1

Whether there are two or twenty two of you – there's something powerful about uniting with other Christians to love Jesus and share Him where you are! (Matthew 5:14–16)

2

It can be tough to be a Christian at College or Sixth Form. CU is a great place to encourage each other to keep walking with Jesus and living for Him. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

3

God can do amazing things through students living passionately for Him where they study! (Ephesians 3: 20)

Who should run a CU?

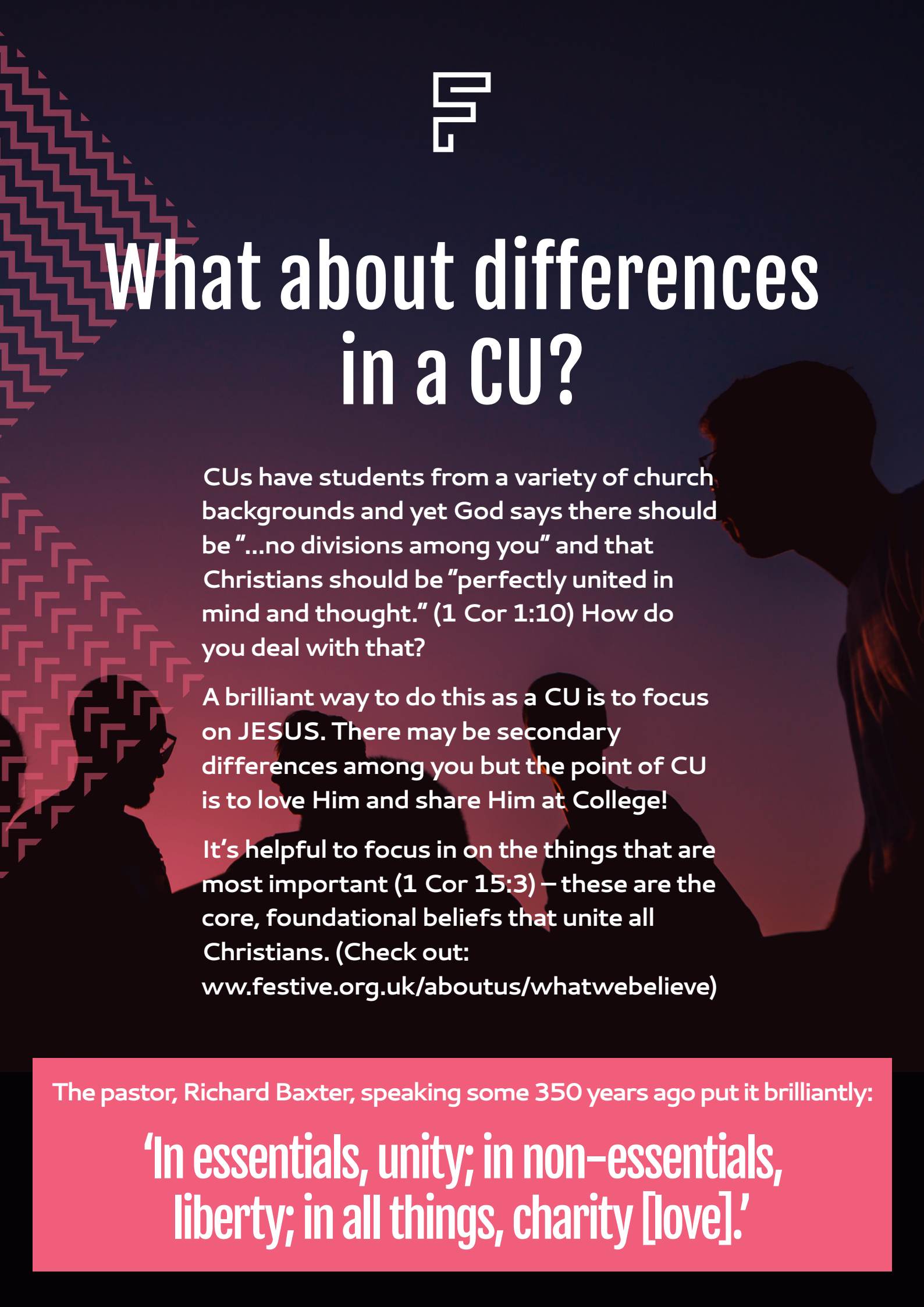
CUs work best when they're led by students who:

- Love Jesus
- Recognise their own weaknesses
- Want to help others come to know Jesus

Most CUs in FE Colleges or Sixth Forms are run by anything from 1–3 students.

Often, CUs really benefit from the help and wisdom of Christian staff, Chaplains, church-based youth workers and church leaders!

What about differences in a CU?



CUs have students from a variety of church backgrounds and yet God says there should be "...no divisions among you" and that Christians should be "perfectly united in mind and thought." (1 Cor 1:10) How do you deal with that?

A brilliant way to do this as a CU is to focus on JESUS. There may be secondary differences among you but the point of CU is to love Him and share Him at College!

It's helpful to focus in on the things that are most important (1 Cor 15:3) – these are the core, foundational beliefs that unite all Christians. (Check out: ww.festive.org.uk/aboutus/whatwebelieve)

The pastor, Richard Baxter, speaking some 350 years ago put it brilliantly:

'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity [love].'

What about socials?

Some CUs end up being places where people just hang out.

The trouble is, that doesn't make a CU any different from any other social group or clique!

What makes a CU a 'CU' is when Christians gather together to get fuelled up by Jesus so that – with His help they can go out and share Him!

But...

Socials are great! Why don't you arrange a social or two each term (inside or outside College/Sixth Form). They will help people gel together and you could always invite some of your friends who don't know Jesus to join you too!

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What makes a great Christian Union?

Whatever shape, size, permission or none – a great Christian Union is one that is looking upwards and outwards.

Whoever you are, whatever you have – give it to the One who can do immeasurably more.

Whatever situation you're in, whether it's you alone or you and many, it is some adventure to say "Here I am" to the God who can fuel you up and send you out on His mission. The Festive team would love to stand with you, pray with you and help you make it happen!

Contact: info@festive.org.uk as we would love to pray for you and support you as you seek to start a CU!

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