

UNITY

# Built for Connection: Why One Game Isn't Enough



**Sightline™**  
A CRU MINISTRY



**VICTORY BEYOND THE CUP**

# The Shared Anthem

The stadium was a mosaic of different faces. Thomas stood in a row between a retired mechanic and a young student who spoke a language he didn't understand. They had nothing in common. They lived in different neighborhoods, worked different jobs, and likely disagreed on almost everything outside these concrete walls.

But when the whistle blew, all of those differences seemed to vanish.

As the match went on, the crowd began to move like a single wave. When the team moved the ball down the wing, thirty thousand people held their breath at the same time. When the goalkeeper made a diving save, Thomas found himself high-fiving the mechanic as if they were lifelong friends. They were shouting the same chants and wearing the same colors. For ninety minutes, they weren't strangers. They were a family.

The energy was uncontrollable. It felt like the entire world had shrunk down to this one pitch. In that moment, Thomas felt a deep sense of belonging. He wasn't just an individual anymore. He was part of a community with a shared passion and a single purpose.







The game ended in a hard-fought draw. As the fans began to file out through the narrow exits, the magic started to fade.

By the time Thomas reached the subway station, the unity was already cracking. People were starting to argue about which player was to blame for the result. On the train ride home, the jerseys that had brought everyone together were tucked under coats. The strangers who had been hugging minutes ago were now staring at their phones, avoiding eye contact once again.

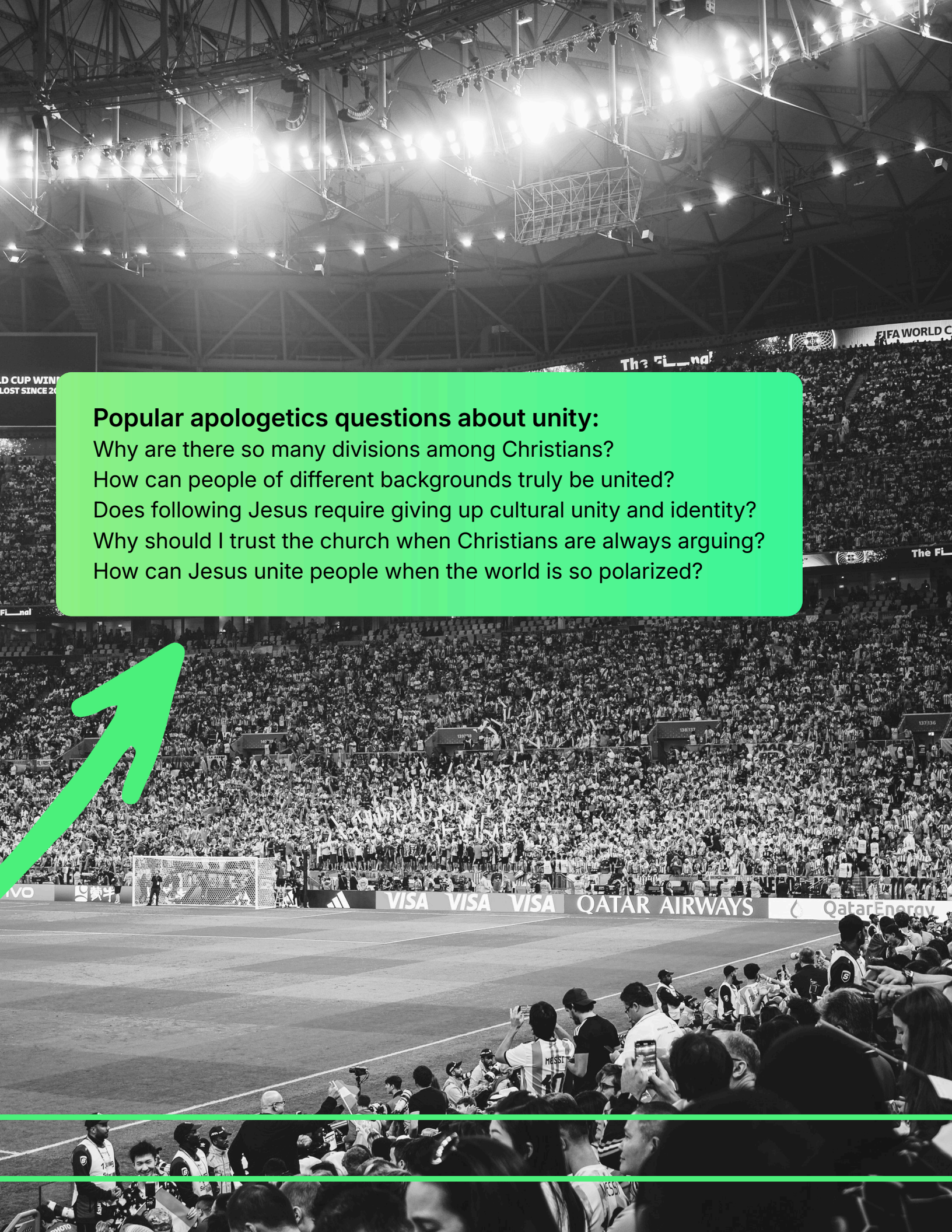
The shared anthem was over. The common cause had reached its end.

Thomas sat by the window and watched the city lights flicker by. He thought about how easy it had been to feel connected inside the stadium, and how quickly that feeling disappeared once the lights went out. The rivalry with the other team had brought them together, but now that the game was done, the old divisions were returning.

He leaned his head against the glass and felt a familiar ache. He loved the feeling of standing with thousands of people for something bigger than himself. But he wondered why that bond always seemed to break the moment they stepped outside the gates.

If we were built to be together, why does it take a game to make us feel like one?





## Popular apologetics questions about unity:

Why are there so many divisions among Christians?

How can people of different backgrounds truly be united?

Does following Jesus require giving up cultural unity and identity?

Why should I trust the church when Christians are always arguing?

How can Jesus unite people when the world is so polarized?



# Finding Perfect Unity

Soccer uniquely unites people. Total strangers high-five after a goal, chant side by side, and celebrate as if they've known each other for years. For ninety minutes, backgrounds, opinions, and differences disappear. The team brings them together. And once every four years, the whole world seems to unify as one around the uncontrollable magnitude of the World Cup.

## Why does soccer create unity so easily?

One reason soccer creates unity on a nearly incomparable level is because of its worldwide presence. But it's more than that. The sport allows us to belong to a community with shared passion and purpose. Something powerful happens when people gather for a common cause like the World Cup.

## What does this reveal about us?

This reveals something significant about us that we shouldn't be quick to ignore. It reveals that we are designed for connection. We want to be part of a people who stand together, celebrate together, and fight for something together. However, this unity around the sport of soccer - even with something as big as the World Cup - is temporary. Fans disperse. Disagreements return. Rivalries divide. Our longing for lasting unity around something that never fades remains unfulfilled.

## What do we do with this longing?

If we long for unity that lasts, we need something stronger than fandom. And we need something bigger than soccer. The Bible teaches that Jesus creates a unity no human group can rival. He tears down barriers, reconciles people to God and to one another, and forms a family bound not by preference but by His love and sacrifice. Our longing for unity, to be one people centered around something not just good, but perfect and everlasting is fulfilled only in Christ.

## Key Takeaway

Christ forms a unity deeper and stronger than anything in the world—one built on His grace, His mission, and His Spirit.



[sightlineministry.com](http://sightlineministry.com) | [victorybeyondthecup.com](http://victorybeyondthecup.com)