

Sermon Discussion – 10 March 2024

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

Discuss the idea that people often don't see themselves as they truly are. Share instances where your perception of yourself differed from others' perceptions. How can a community help individuals see themselves more accurately?

Observation *Discovering the context*

In Ephesians 1-3, we learned of God's work of redemption. All of this was according to His plan, reconciling sinful men and women back to Himself. Yet, this act is not done in isolation. God calls all His people into a new community, a new people, a new family in Christ. After three chapters of doctrine, Paul transitions into addressing everyday practical implications of the Gospel. Here starts the second half of the letter that teaches us how to live in light of God's glorious grace.

- In this chapter, Paul continues to use the term "called" to describe something God has done (v. 1, 4). Considering what we've learned so far in the book of Ephesians, how would you describe this calling? *Hint: See Ephesians 1:18; 2:10; and 3:6.*
- Paul commands his readers to live a life worthy of their calling and then lists some characteristics. What are they? What type of person comes to mind as you read over this list? Who have you witnessed do a good example of this?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. According to Ephesians 4:1-6, how does the concept of unity within the church contribute to its overall mission and purpose?
2. Why does Christian unity necessitate agreement on "one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all"? What might this say about the importance of doctrine, our ability to understand it, and unity?
3. Jesus has given every believer gifts through the Spirit, as well as the corporate body of believers. For what purpose? *Hint: See verses 12 and 13.*

4. How does Paul describe the mature church in these verses? What can you do to help our church grow in spiritual maturity?

5. According to v. 15-16, what role does Christ play in holding the church together and facilitating growth?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- Discuss the challenge of discerning between good and poisonous teaching, as mentioned in Ephesians 4:14. How can believers develop discernment in their spiritual lives? Share personal experiences where discernment played a crucial role in your spiritual journey.

- As a conclusion, discuss practical ways your group can collectively pursue unity, celebrate diversity, and contribute to the maturity of your church community. Encourage each other to actively engage in the church's mission, utilizing your unique gifts for the glory of God.