



## *Church Matters: Being One*

### **Ephesians 4:1-16**

#### **Unity in the Body of Christ**

1As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8This is why it<sup>[a]</sup> says:

"When he ascended on high,  
he led captives in his train

and gave gifts to men."<sup>[b]</sup> 9(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions<sup>[c]</sup>? 10He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 11It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

**LIFE Community Leader's Guide**  
**Sunday, March 11**

**Big Idea:** Our differences help us achieve the one mission: maturity in Christ

**Key Verse:**

*Ephesians 4:11-13*

**Opening Question:**

When has an area of weakness/need allowed someone to help you?

**Study/Discussion Questions:**

Read through the passage together—Ephesians 4:1-16

**Observation Questions**

1. What are we urged to live?
2. How are we urged to live our lives?
3. How are we one?
4. How are we different?
5. What is the main purpose behind our different gifts and services?
6. What is the reason for being mature in our faith?

**Interpretation Questions**

1. The passage highlights three things that “works of service” achieve: unity in faith, unity in knowledge of Christ and maturity in Christ. What do those three things mean? Why does this passage highlight those as important factors for the people of God to have?
2. Why was solid doctrine so important for the early believers?
3. Paul tells us how we should deal with issues of difference with each other: “speaking the truth in love”? How does the passage tell us to speak in love? What would “speaking the truth in love” look like for the people Paul was writing to?

**Application Questions**

Bryan highlighted this passage in the close of his message as the reason the church is focusing on these changes right now. He emphasized the desire for us to grow in our faith. He firmly believes, along with the elders, that these changes will allow for us to experience God more fully as a result.

1. How can we learn from each other during this time of discussion and debate?
2. Think of the three areas highlighted from the text: unity in faith, unity in knowledge of Christ and maturity in Christ.
  - A. What area do you feel challenged to focus on and grow in?
  - B. No matter the church vote and conclusion of the matter, how will you grow in your faith through this?
  - C. What can you and your group learn through the process.
3. “Speaking the truth in love” has been often quoted and often abused. How can you speak the truth in love to help others grow up into him who is the Head, that is Christ?
4. What is your work in the church right now? Are you doing it?

**Close your time in praying for each other. Pray especially for the unity of the Church during this time. Pray for our elders, our staff, Bryan and those who have different views from your own, seeking their maturity in the faith. Pray for yourself, asking God to make you mature in your faith.**