

Ephesians

Week 09 – All for One

Transition: Last week we looked at Paul's second prayer in this letter. In his first prayer (1:15-23), he prayed that the Ephesians would know (be enlightened to) the riches of their glorious inheritance as children of God and the immeasurable greatness of His power in their lives. In this prayer, he is praying for strength, love, and filling. Paul's prayer reveals that these are vital components that work together in the life of someone who has trusted in Christ.

Context: Over the years, scholars have divided this letter into two sections: chapters 1-3, which focus on correct doctrine and chapters 4-6, which focus on practical living (based on that doctrine). The first subject he addresses is how the proper outworking of our being unified as one body (in Christ) ultimately leads to both individual and collective spiritual maturity through the body building itself up in love.

Opening Questions:

- When have you been in a group that was supposed to be unified but wasn't? What were you to be unified over? Why didn't it work out? What could have been done differently?
- How do you determine if someone is spiritually mature? How do you rate yourself in spiritual maturity? (Use these categories...infant, child, teen, young adult, parent, & grandparent.) Explain your choice.

Scripture/Storying: Ephesians 4:1-16

Discipleship Questions:

- This section begins with the word, "therefore," which informs us that what he is about to say is a fitting application to the truth claims that he's just made. What claims do you think he has in mind?
- Paul urges them to "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called" (v1-3). What examples does he give of a walk that is worthy? Why do Christians need to be urged to do this?
- Paul mentions seven "ones" in v 4-6. Talk through each one and discuss why he drew attention to that particular one. What is Paul hoping to accomplish by listing these seven "ones?"
- Paul quotes an OT passage in v8 about God giving certain gifts, which are named in v11. V12 then mentions the overarching purpose of these gifts. What is their purpose? Discuss how each gift contributes to that purpose.
- What is the ultimate goal for every member of the body of Christ (v13-16)? How does it happen? Why is attaining spiritual maturity critical? Personally, what is your next step for growing spiritually?
- How does the body build "itself up in love?" How do you see yourself contributing to the building up of the body?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do in response to today's discussion?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for our church plant, Emmanuel Church.

- Pray that they will find a building that will work well for their church family.
- Pray for wisdom for the elders as they make critical decisions in this process.
- Pray that people who attend will continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.