



Ephesians Notes

Chapter 4 - A Community in Unity



Chapter Summary

In this chapter we see how the Gospel applies in building a unity in the local community of believers. What the character we must have to unite with other believers.

Leader Instruction

Use this time to focus on the Gospel and how it should enable us as the body to unite with all races, classes, and cultures.

Note: This is just an outline of the chapter please study and be creative in your presentation and discussion



Notes

Intro:

Ephesians 4

How does scripture talk about church or community.

1. Paul emphasizes here and in many other places that Christ wants to create a “people”, not merely isolated individuals who believe in Him. So says Sinclair Ferguson, “We are not saved individually and then choose to join the church as if it were some club or support group. Christ died for His people, and we are saved when by faith we become part of the people for whom Christ died for.
2. If the gospel is to be the heart of the church, life and mission, it is equally true that the church is to be at the heart of the gospel, life and mission.
 - There is a vital connection between the work of God in your life for salvation in knowing the love of Christ, being filled with the fullness of God, and being united and connected with the local church with other people.
 - We not only need the gospel personally we need to walk it out with other christians.
1. Question: How does the culture view church differently than the world?
 - 1.1. Optional answers - optional, consumer motivated, selfish motivation.
2. Question: How should the Gospel form how we view church?

Character of the believer for unity

1. Know it is a calling (vs. 1)
2. Humility (vs. 2)



3. Gentleness (vs. 2)
4. Patience (vs. 2)
5. Love (vs. 2)
6. Eager (vs. 3)
7. Finding the right points of unity (vs. 4-5)
8. Recognizing gifts from God (vs. 11)
9. Using the gifts for the right purpose (vs. 12-13)
10. put off false speaking (vs. 25)
11. deal with anger right (vs. 26)
12. do not steal but work and give (vs. 28)
13. Watch your talk (vs. 29)
14. Get rid of bitterness (vs. 31)
15. Get rid of anger (vs. 31)
16. Get rid of slander (vs. 31)
17. Be compassionate (vs. 32)
18. Be forgiving (vs. 32)

3. Question: Why are all of these characteristics important to real unity?

4. Question: How can these things if not practiced destroy relationships?

5. Question: How can any person act in these ways?

5.1. Answer: As Christ (vs. 32) make sure to focus on the gospel and the power of the spirit for how we can live in this manner. Do not point to



man but make sure the gospel is preached in this answer. Jesus is the motivation, the spirit empowerment, and a gospel focus.