

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

7 September 2025

Ephesians 4:11-16

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Overview

The Church images Jesus; reflects and represents him, better together. That was the main point of our last sermon in the *Priesthood* series. In Ephesians 1:9-10 Paul sums up God's ultimate purpose for creation saying that the purpose which He set forward in Jesus is to "*unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.*" He goes on in Ephesians 3:10 to say that God's wisdom (a word synonymous with how God is working out His plan) is revealed through the church. Ephesians 4:11-16 is how the Church functions together to grow in Christlikeness in order to image Him to the world. The three ways we image him are through *our unity, our maturity, and our stability.*

Beloved, let me give you pastoral encouragement before you begin discussion. A true mark of unity, maturity, and stability as well as a means to get there is a willingness to be vulnerable. Every time we gather together we have to fight the temptation to hide. Believe the gospel and go beyond the surface. People are hungry for real relationships. Christ in us and through us can give that to one another.

Discussion Questions

1. Think back to the first time you came in contact with the Church. Do you remember your first impressions?
2. Read Vs. 4-6, 13. What does it mean that the Church has unity in diversity? Why is it a better testimony to the world if the church is filled with diversity?
3. What do Vs. 11-12 tell us about how the Church is built up? Talk about the gifts that Paul mentions here as well as other spiritual gifts you might be aware of. Are you aware of how God has uniquely gifted you to build up the Church?
4. Paul says that when we mature we will become stable, "*no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness and deceitful schemes*" (Vs. 14). How do we provide stability for one another?
5. How are you experiencing instability at the moment? Community groups, how can you speak the truth in love, i.e., remind each other of the gospel.