



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“EPHESIANS 4:1-16” ON SEPTEMBER 29 + OCTOBER 2, 2022

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER: EPHESIANS 4:1-16

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

EPHESIANS 4:1-16 Paul spent the first three chapters of Ephesians assuring them of God's love, showing them all the things God had done for them because of that love. In the next three chapters Paul begins to describe how we should respond to that love – what believers need to do to show the world how awesome God is!

Ephesians 4:1-6: UNITY in the Church – why is that so important? (And what's that “H” word?)

- Paul urges the Ephesians to live a life 'worthy of the calling you have received.' What do you think that looks like in a believer's life? How well do you think you are doing at living worthy of the calling you have received?
- Jason spoke in his message about being sure we're connected to the HEAD of the Church – what does that mean, and how do we do that? What is required of us to do truly be connected to the HEAD?
- Verse 2 speaks of bearing with one another in love. What does that mean to you? How are you seeing that accomplished in the body of our church, in your own life, or in someone else's life who is a great example? What are the challenges and blessings of bearing with one another in love?
- The words 'one' and 'all' are used repeatedly in verses 5 and 6. Unpack Paul's teaching here – what is he wanting us to understand about the importance of unity in the body of believers?

Ephesians 4:7-12: DIVERSITY of the Body of Christ – when Paul begins a verse with the word 'But,' we know something important is coming! Here he is speaking of gifts given to us 'as Christ apportioned it.' We all are given different gifts - Paul mentions gifts of being called to be apostles, pastors and teachers in this passage, but look also in Romans 12:3-8 and I Corinthians 12:7-11 for more gifts given by God and the Holy Spirit (and this still is not an exhaustive list.) These gifts are given for us to use together to build the Church!

- What spiritual gifts do you think you might have- have you thought about or acknowledged how He has gifted you? How important is it to you to use the gifts He has given you to serve and build the Church? If you don't know what those gifts are or don't think you know how to serve, whom could you ask to help you become more engaged in serving?
- Analyze what gifts are used each Thursday night or Sunday morning to make a CU Church worship service happen.....think of EVERY aspect, look at every detail – in set-up, tear-down, sound, music, parking, ushering, greeting, children's area, JH and HS groups, music, speakers, videos, words on the screen, preaching, communion, welcome center, etc, etc, etc.....!!!! How many gifts are used? How important is each and every one to the WHOLE? How many people do you think that involves? Where could or do you fit in?
- And how about OUTSIDE the church – what gifts do you have that can show how you love God and love people by serving someone you encounter during the week? Where might God be asking you to humbly step forward to reach out to someone because you are IN CHRIST, connected to the HEAD, and thankful to have the opportunity to serve?

Ephesians 4:13-16: SPIRITUAL MATURITY – the natural outgrowth of seeking UNITY in the church and using the DIVERSE God-given gifts we are blessed with is SPIRITUAL GROWTH and MATURITY, both as individuals and as a body of believers!

- How does spiritual infancy differ from spiritual maturity mentioned in verses 13-14? How can one move



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- from spiritual infancy toward spiritual maturity, and why does that matter?
- Look back at Ephesians 3:17-19; how does spiritual maturity of each believer strengthen and build the church as a whole? What can you do to nurture and grow in your own spiritual maturity, or to encourage someone else in their journey?
- How does verse 16 challenge you to clearly define your role in the body of believers as EACH part does its work in growing and building up the body of Christ?

RESPOND

How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?

What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?

Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering?

PRAY for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.

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