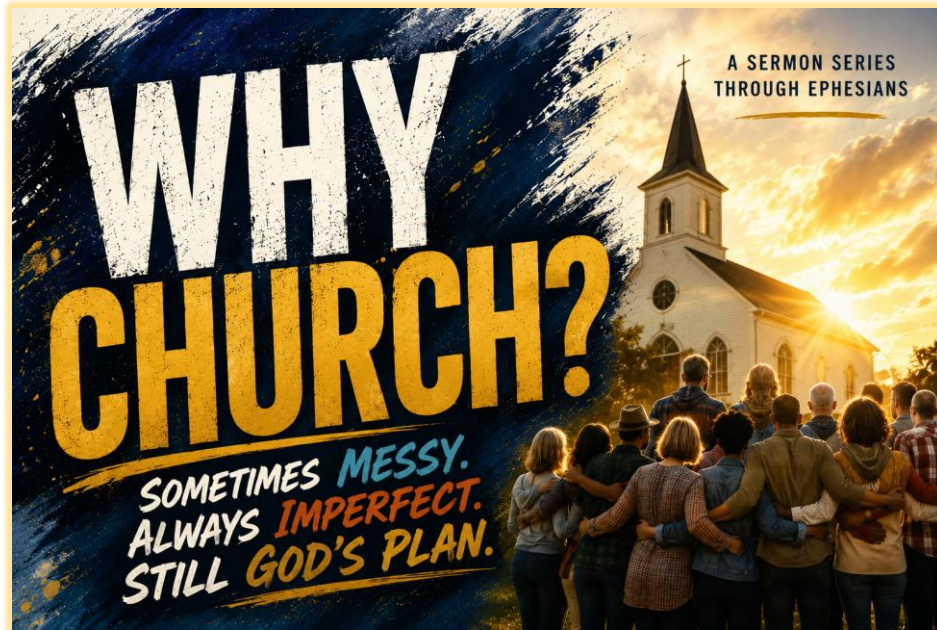




How to Walk Hand in Hand When We Don't See Eye to Eye

Ephesians 4:1-6

Have you ever anticipated a family gathering knowing everything will go well—as long as nobody brings “that” up? You know what “that” is. A topic. A person. Something that happened years ago. Nobody has to explain it. Everybody knows: “We’re having a good time. Let’s not go

there. Let's not light the fuse!" Then somebody does.

Something like that can happen in the church. We worship the same Lord, sing the same songs, and open the same Scriptures. Yet we don't always agree about politics, parenting, church decisions, or how we understand a passage.

So, how do we talk about things that matter without treating one another as though we no longer matter? How do we remain united when we aren't in agreement?

We've been asking the question, *Why Church?* Today, we'll consider *How to Walk Hand in Hand When We Don't See Eye to Eye*. Ephesians 4:1–6 calls us to live in a way that fits who we are in Christ. It describes the calling we share, the character we need, and the confession that reminds us we are one.

So, how do we walk hand in hand when we don't see eye to eye? The apostle Paul gives the church three appeals.

Live out your calling (Verse 1).

Live in Christlike character (Verses 2-3).

Live up to your confession (4-6).

***So**, somebody brings “that” up. You feel the tension rising. It's easy to think, ‘They need to stop. They need to change.’ But in that moment, what is Christ asking of me? Perhaps it's to take a step toward peace. Ask a question and then*

really listen. You may still disagree, but you can choose how you treat them. Pray: “Lord, help me see this person as You do. Let Your character shape my response.” Christ has brought us near and made us family. Now, live out your calling. Live in Christlike character. Live up to your confession. We may not always see eye to eye, but by His grace, we can learn to walk hand in hand.