



Sermon Discussion Guide: Choose Community

Series: *Favorites*

Date: 08/31/2025

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1–6 (NRSVue)

Opening Prayer

God of One Body and One Spirit,
You made us for community.
Remind us that life in Christ is not a solo journey but a shared path.
Open our hearts to humility, patience, and love,
so we may live in ways worthy of the calling You've given us.
Help us grow together as Your church.
Amen.

Introduction & Context

This week's message highlights one of Pastor Shawn's favorite scriptures, Ephesians 4:1–6—a beautiful and practical framework for Christian community. In it, Paul urges the early church to live lives worthy of their calling by embodying humility, gentleness, patience, and love. These values aren't abstract—they are how we “make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit.”

The sermon draws connections between Ephesians 4 and John 17, where Jesus prays for the unity of His followers—not just for the original disciples, but for us. This unity is more than a goal—it's a gift and a responsibility. Community isn't always easy, but it's essential for spiritual growth. We are invited to not only attend church, but to *be the church*—together.





Discussion Questions

1. “Made for Community”

The message began with a simple question: What’s your favorite place to *be*?

- a. Where are the places you feel most connected to others?
- b. How does Ephesians 4 challenge or affirm your understanding of Christian community?

2. “A Life Worthy of the Calling”

Paul encourages believers to live lives marked by humility, gentleness, and patience.

- a. Which of these traits is easiest for you to live out in community? Which is most challenging?
- b. What would it look like for you to “bear with one another in love” this week?

3. “Unity Isn’t Uniformity”

We are told there is one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith—unity rooted in God, not in our sameness.

- a. How can unity thrive even among people who think, vote, or live differently?
- b. Have you experienced Christian unity in a diverse setting? What helped it work?

4. “The Problem with People”

Spiritual formation happens when we choose to love and serve—even when it's hard.

- a. Can you share a time when community was challenging but ultimately helped you grow?
- b. How has someone else’s patience or gentleness shaped your life?

5. “Faith in Practice”

Christian community is a lab for transformation—not just support, but growth.

- a. How are you practicing your faith with others right now?
- b. Is there a next step you feel prompted to take? (Join a group, lead one, be more present?)



Application & Challenge

Choose Community Intentionally

This week, reflect on your connections. Are you part of a group where you are known and growing?

If yes: Lean in. Be present. Practice patience and love in real, intentional ways.

If not: Explore a new opportunity (Dinner for 8, Neighboring Group, Men's Group, etc.). Take a risk to show up and be known.

Daily Practice

Pray this breath prayer:

Inhale: *Make me humble.*

Exhale: *Help me love.*

Let this center you in your relationships all week long.

Connect the Dots

Jesus prayed in John 17 that we would be *one*.

Paul says in Ephesians 4 that we are *called* to live that way.

Let's live like we believe it.

Closing Prayer

Lord,

You call us to a shared life. When we are tempted to withdraw, remind us we are part of one body. When community is hard, give us humility and patience. When unity feels fragile, make us agents of peace. Help us live lives worthy of Your calling—together. Amen.

Key Takeaway

Christian community is not optional. It's where our faith becomes real. You were made for this. So, choose it again and again.

This guide was developed from original content with the assistance of ChatGPT.

