



Connect Discussion Guide

01.16.22 Message | Tyler Myers | Ephesians 4:1-16

Key Scriptures:

“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

- Ephesians 4:1-16

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

- Ephesians 5:1-2

“This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

- Ephesians 5:32-33

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

- Ephesians 6:1-4

“Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.”

- Ephesians 6:5-10

Message Highlights:

- Jesus' dream for the church is for it to be the flesh that reveals the oneness that exists between God the father, the son and the holy spirit.
- Jesus' hope is for our relationships to be the catalyst for heaven's blessings to abound on earth.
- As beloved children of God, remember that the triune God has our best interest in mind.
- "What Jesus appears to have been asking for is neither organizational unity nor ideological uniformity. Rather, in his prayer he sought our relational unity: "just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you..." - Mark Moore

Conversation Starter:

Think about the most well-functioning teams you have been a part of. What kind of ongoing team building/maintenance was helpful in creating such a healthy team dynamic?

Discuss the Message:

1. Read through Ephesians 4:1-16 again, focusing on the concept of unity with Christ. What word(s) or phrase(s) stick out to you in this passage? Why do those words or phrases resonate with you, and what do you think God could be calling you to as a result?
2. How does striving for oneness in our relationships catalyze heaven's blessings to abound on earth? What does working toward oneness (not uniformity) in relationships look like?
3. What are the traits that we absolutely need in order to model unity with Christ, according to Galatians 5:22-26? What do you learn about Christ from the fact that these traits do not come naturally to us?
4. How have you achieved unity in spaces where there are lots of differences of opinion, theology, organizational structure, etc.? In what ways have you grown closer to the image of Christ through the journey of working toward unity in difficult spaces?
5. Every spiritual blessing that has been lavishly graced upon us is for the purpose of redemption and uniting all things to Christ. What does it mean for YOU to be united to Christ in oneness this week amidst all of the different areas of your life?

Pray:

Father, thank you for modeling perfect unity through the holy trinity. We are humbled that you would invite us into oneness with you and that you would use our imperfect human relationships to be a catalyst for heaven's blessings to abound on earth. Help us to depend wholly on you as we strive to grow in humility, gentleness and patience and ultimately toward unity. When we get overwhelmed by the frustrations of working toward unity in the different areas of our lives, help us realign our focus on you and your word. We are incredibly grateful for the grace you offer us throughout this journey. In your son's name we pray, Amen.