
Wednesday GEL Group

Grow Encourage Learn

Tonight, we move into the more practical aspects of what it means to be a Christian and participate as a part of the body of Christ. We have seen in the previous chapters, Paul's explanation of God's great mystery and plan for His church. We have explored the reason why Paul prayed an awe-inspiring prayer. What we will study tonight is Paul's plea to live out the grace and unity the believers have received through Christ. It is also my hope that we will understand how the challenges for churches today parallel the challenges that faced the first century churches like this one in Ephesus.

1. What are the key principles of what it means to participate in a team? It could be a sporting team, a maintenance team, a ministry team.
2. What are some of the key principles of belonging to a church?
3. Let's read Ephesians 4:1-16 and discuss some of the standout verses
4. What is Paul urging the Ephesian church in verses 1-4?
5. What are the four characteristics that make a person "worthy of the calling"?
6. Do we live in a society that suggests gentleness and humility is a weakness? If so why?
7. How do we make allowances for each other's faults?
8. How do we keep the unity of the Spirit?

9. What is the difference then between the church and a social club? How does this shape what the activities of a church are and why?

10. Verse 8 also refers to Psalm 68:18; 2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 15 which pictures God as conqueror as the Ark of the Covenant was being brought up to Zion in triumph by David. As David brings the Ark to Jerusalem, he also brings the tribute of war extracted from the captured foes. Some of the spoils was given to the Temple, and some was distributed among the warriors.
How does Paul use this picture to refer to Christ's ascent into heaven and what does this mean for us?

11. What does the statement "he led a crowd of captives" mean?

12. What did Christ give in verse 11? For what reason in verse 12-13?

13. Describe what this means for us in verses 14-16?

14. What have has *encouraged* you in this chapter of Ephesians?

15. How have you *grown*? How can we grow in unity?

16. What have you learnt tonight?