



Week 9

Sermon Series: Blueprints for Discipleship

Sermon Title: Growing Together

Sermon Text: Ephesians 4:1-16

Group Week of: March 5, 2023

Sermon Date: March 12, 2023

The Text

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	Paul's Imprisonment – Acts 27:11-31
Day 2	The Gospel Call & Life – Ephesians 1:1-14
Day 3	Living in the Gospel – Colossians 3:5-17
Day 4	Love – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Day 5	One God – Deuteronomy 6:1-9

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

Textual Questions

- 1) What is the message that God and Paul are speaking to the Ephesians (and to you) through this text?
- 2) What commands are issued in this passage?
- 3) How do all of the “one” statements relate to unity in the church?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) In Ephesus, the struggle with church unity revolved around the differences between Jews and Gentiles. What are the issues around which church unity is threatened in the church today?
 - i. In America, what issues and differences arise that threaten church unity?

 - ii. At West Side church, what issues and differences arise that threaten church unity?

- 2) Trying to “live a life worthy of the calling to which we’ve been called” is difficult because often as soon as we intend to do this, we start *performing* the Christian life in our own strength and not in the Lord’s strength. How does someone “live a life worthy” without becoming self-righteous or self-dependent?

- 3) How can a Christian have genuine, natural, from-the-heart—humility, gentleness, patience, and love (as opposed to just the outward performance of humility, gentleness, patience, and love)?

- 4) Paul exhorts us to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Does this mean that Christians are responsible to create unity or to protect unity? Secondly, how is the Christian to go about this work?

- 5) As Paul exhorts to unity, he quickly reminds us in verses 4-6 of there only being one Body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, and God and Father of all. **Meditate on these verses.** After doing so, consider the global church and the many denominations in the church today. What should our attitudes and actions be toward other true believers and churches?

- 6) Paul is showing us in verse 8 that the quoted verse (Psalm 68:18) and Jesus’ burial and resurrection are tied to His giving of spiritual gifts to the church. What are spiritual gifts for? How do they relate to unity? How are you using your gifts to promote health and unity in the Body?

- 7) Do you have any habits that attack church unity rather than protect and promote it? Whatever those may be, confess and repent of them before the Lord, and rest in knowing that He has forgiven you. After that, write out below what you will do to actively help the unity of the Body going forward.