

Ephesians 4:1-16

EPHESIANS GC DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Walking Worthy Together

Big Idea

Because of all that God has done for us in Christ (chapters 1–3), believers are called to live lives worthy of the gospel by pursuing unity, embracing their role in the body, and growing together into spiritual maturity.

Main Theme

Christ has united His church and equipped His people so that the whole body might grow into maturity and reflect Him to the world.

Opening Icebreaker

Think about a team, organization, or family you've been part of that functioned really well together. What made it work?

Transition: Paul shifts in chapter 4 from what God has done for us to how we should live in response. The first area he addresses is life together as the church.

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you about Paul's appeal to "walk in a manner worthy of the calling" (v.1)?

Leader Notes: Paul is not calling believers to earn God's favor but to live consistently with the grace they have already received.

Key Truth: Gospel doctrine leads to gospel living.

2. According to verse 2, what character qualities protect and strengthen unity?

Leader Notes: Notice:

- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Bearing with one another in love

These virtues are often more difficult than theological agreement.

Application: Which of these is most challenging for you?

3. Why do you think Paul says we must be "eager to maintain" unity rather than create unity (v.3)?

Leader Notes: Christ has already created unity through His work on the cross. Our responsibility is to preserve and protect what Christ has established.

4. What do verses 4–6 teach us about the foundation of Christian unity?

Leader Notes: Notice the repeated word "one":

- One body
- One Spirit
- One hope
- One Lord
- One faith
- One baptism
- One God and Father

Unity is rooted in shared gospel truths.

5. How can Christians maintain unity without compromising truth?

Leader Notes: Biblical unity is not uniformity.

The church must hold firmly to truth while extending grace toward one another.

6. What does Paul teach about spiritual gifts in verses 7–12?

Leader Notes: Every believer has received grace for ministry.

Church ministry is not primarily performed by pastors; pastors equip believers for ministry.

Key Insight: Every Christian is gifted and needed.

7. According to verse 12, what is the purpose of church leaders?

Leader Notes: Leaders equip the saints for ministry.

The goal is not dependence on leaders but maturity among believers.

8. How does our culture tend to view church differently from Paul's description here?

Leader Notes: Modern culture often treats church as:

- A service to consume
- A program to attend

Paul describes a body where everyone contributes.

9. What marks of spiritual maturity do you see in verses 13–15?

Leader Notes: Maturity includes:

- Unity in faith
- Knowledge of Christ
- Stability
- Discernment
- Truthfulness
- Love

10. What does it mean to "speak the truth in love" (v.15)?

Leader Notes: Truth without love becomes harsh.

Love without truth becomes sentimental.

Biblical maturity requires both.

Application: Which side do you naturally lean toward?

11. According to verse 16, what role does every member play in the church's growth?

Leader Notes: Every believer contributes.

The body grows as each member faithfully uses their gifts.

12. How can our group help one another move toward greater maturity in Christ?

Leader Notes: Encourage practical responses:

- Prayer
- Accountability
- Encouragement
- Service
- Hospitality
- Honest conversations

Digging Deeper

Compare the words:

- Unity
- Maturity
- Growth

How are these connected throughout the passage?

Leader Notes: True unity leads to growth. True growth strengthens unity. Both happen as the church centers itself on Christ.

Gospel Connection

Jesus is both:

- The Savior who unites the church
- The Head who nourishes the church

Because Christ gave Himself for His people, believers are called to live in unity and serve one another in love.

Prayer Focus

Pray for:

- Unity in the church
- Humility and patience
- Effective use of spiritual gifts
- Growth in maturity
- Courage to speak truth in love