Living in Unity

Eph. 4:28-5:2

Bulletin

1. Sin separates us. It brings division and death.

2. God unites us in Christ. He gives life. (Eph 2:11-22)

3. We're called to live in the unity God has provided. (Eph 4:1-6)
    a. Generosity instead of theft (4:28)
    b. Speaking life instead of rottenness (4:29)
    c. Grace instead of anger (4:31-5:2)
    d. Not grieving the Holy Spirit (4:30, Isa. 63:7-14)

Small Group Discussion Questions

(*Choose 1 or 2 from each category.)*

ICE-BREAKERS:

1. Best or worst team you've been on: What's the best (or most hilariously bad) team you've ever been part of? It could be a sports team, a group project, a work crew, or a church volleyball league.
2. Food gone bad: Paul's word for "foul" was used for spoiled food like rotten fish and wormy olives. What's the worst thing you've ever found in your fridge, or accidentally eaten?
3. Inspirational speeches: Coach Boone gave his team a speech at 3 a.m. on a battlefield. What's the most memorable pep talk, speech, or "motivational moment" you've ever received, good or awkward?

GOSPEL:

1. Ephesians 2:19–22 and 1 Peter 2:4–5 describe believers as stones being built into a temple. What does the image of being "chiseled and fitted together" teach about how God forms His people? What does it suggest about the discomfort that sometimes comes with it?
2. Jesus prayed that His followers would be one "so that the world may believe" (John 17:20–23). How does the unity of the church connect to the credibility of the gospel?
3. Grieving is a personal response. Why does it matter that we speak of the Holy Spirit as "He" and not "it"? How might seeing Him as a person affect how we think about our sin?
4. Paul calls us "dearly loved children" before he calls us to imitate God (Ephesians 5:1; Romans 8:15–17). Why does the order matter? What happens when we try to imitate God without first knowing we are loved?
5. The sermon said, "We're not obeying this passage to become something we aren't already." How does that guard us against turning Ephesians 4 into a self-improvement list? Where are you tempted to obey in order to earn God's approval?

COMMUNITY:

1. Paul says to "make every effort" to keep unity (Ephesians 4:3). What does real effort toward unity look like in a church? Where does it cost us something?
2. Pastor Adam described being more concerned with what people would think of his parenting than with his children's hearts. How does fear of others' opinions shape our parenting (or our relationships in general)?
3. Paul says to work hard "so that he has something to share with anyone in need" (Ephesians 4:28). Acts 2:44–47 describes believers sharing what they had. What would that kind of generosity look like among us today?

4. There are seasons when we are the ones in need. Why can it be harder to receive help than to give it? What might pride have to do with that?

5. Is there a relationship right now, in your family, friendships, or church, where you need to take a step toward kindness, compassion, or forgiveness? What would one small, honest step look like this week?

MISSION:

1. Paul says the former thief should work "so that he has something to share with anyone in need" (Ephesians 4:28). How would it change your view of your job if one of its main purposes was generosity?

2. Stealing elevates ourselves above others. What are some subtle ways we "steal" today, with our time, attention, credit, or resources? How might generosity be the answer to each?

3. Philippians 2:3–4 calls us to look to the interests of others. Where in your daily routine do you most often default to your own interests? What would it take to notice the needs around you?

4. The sermon said that longing to be a part of something greater than ourselves "can't be met by a sports team or hobby group or book club." How would you explain to a friend why it can only be met in Jesus?

5. Paul calls us to be "imitators of God" (Ephesians 5:1). When God saw our need, He moved toward us in Christ. What would it look like for us to move toward people far from God the same way?

6. Forgiveness is one of the most countercultural things a Christian can do. How might forgiving someone, or asking forgiveness, become a witness to people watching your life?