

CORNERSTONE

DISCIPLESHIP

GROUPS

FITLY JOINED TOGETHER

Pastor Andrew Burns

Message from Sunday, April 19, 2026

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and reveal how each person can better function in the body of Christ.

Key Takeaways

1. **We are spiritually positioned in Christ** - Our standing with God is based entirely on Jesus' finished work, not our performance or works.
2. **Every member is essential** - God has carefully and masterfully arranged each person in the body of Christ for a specific purpose.
3. **We are called to active participation** - Being part of the church means more than attendance; it means contributing to the growth and edification of the whole body.
4. **God qualifies us** - The moment we receive Jesus, we are qualified to serve. We don't earn this through classes, good works, or spiritual maturity.
5. **We grow together** - The local church is God's ordained place for us to increase in the knowledge of God and practice godly living.

Main Takeaways

1. Transformation is the Christian's Walk

The Christian life is marked by ongoing transformation (metamorphosis) - a radical change from one state of being to another, just like a caterpillar to a butterfly or Saul to Paul.

2. Grace is Power

When the Bible speaks of grace, think "power." Grace isn't just unmerited favor - it's the supernatural empowerment that enables you to fulfill God's unique calling for your life - something we could never do in our strength.

3. Grace Produces Results

God's grace is never empty or fruitless. It always produces a visible, measurable result in our lives and ministry.

4. Grace Qualifies the Unqualified

God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called. Paul was the "chief of sinners," yet grace transformed him into the greatest apostle.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Foundation

1. Pastor Andrew emphasized that this message is NOT about performance or earning God's approval. Why is this distinction so important? How does it change the way we approach serving?
2. Read Ephesians 4:15-16 together. What does it mean to be "fitly joined together"? What happens when parts of the body are disconnected?

Our Position in Christ

3. The sermon stated: "When God looks at you, who does He see? Jesus." How does this truth impact your view of yourself? Your view of serving?

The Body Functioning Together

4. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:27-37), the church is represented as the innkeeper. What does this tell us about our role in caring for wounded people?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26. Why does God give greater honor to the parts that seem weaker or less presentable? How does this challenge worldly thinking?

Personal Barriers

6. What are some reasons people disqualify themselves from serving (fear, inferiority, past experiences, feeling unqualified)? Have you struggled with any of these?
7. The pastor said, "There are people that you can reach that I can't reach." What unique perspective, experiences, or gifts do you bring to the body that others might not have?

Practical Application

8. How can we tell the difference between serving out of obligation/performance versus serving from our position in Christ?
9. What does it look like practically to "increase in the knowledge of God" within the context of the local church?

Practical Applications

This Week:

1. **Pray Daily** - Ask God to show you where and how He wants you to serve in the body of Christ. Write down what you sense Him saying.
2. **Identify Your Gifts** - Make a list of:
 - Your life experiences (good and difficult)
 - Your natural talents and abilities
 - Things that bring you joy when you do them
3. **Study the Scriptures** - Read 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4:1-16 multiple times this week. Ask God to give you fresh revelation about your place in the body.

Memory Verse

Ephesians 4:16 - "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." (KJV)

Or in modern translation: "He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." (NLT)

Closing Prayer Points

- Thank God for qualifying us through Jesus
- Ask for revelation about our unique place in the body
- Pray for courage to overcome barriers that keep us from serving
- Pray for unity and love in the body of Christ
- Ask God to help us see ourselves as He sees us—in Christ

News & Events

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more! <https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- If you've never been Water Baptized, registration is now open.
- Intro to Cornerstone Life registration is open
- Our Ladies Spring Event is May 2. Registration is open!
- May 7 - National Day of Prayer
- May 10 - Muffins with Mom
- May 16 - Good Neighbor Day

