

EPHESIANS 4:1-10

GETTING STARTED...

The official motto for the Olympic games is “Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together.” We recognize that even when it comes to sports and athleticism that we rely on one another. There are many places in life where we can only accomplish something great with the work and support of those around us. That is even more true in the church! God designed his church to work together, not fraction into factions. And by God’s grace, he has given us the means to work together as we share in the common experience of salvation and indwelling of the Holy Spirit. God created the church to be unified, but that doesn’t mean we are uniform. We each express the unique way in which God has gifted us to serve as we work towards the common goal of God’s glory.

READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 4:1-10

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What does Paul all list that unities us as believers? What differences does Paul mention?
2. Paul quotes from Psalm 68:18 in verse 8. How does Paul explain this psalm in light of Jesus?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

Agassiz/Lake Errock How does the unity of the Gospel challenge the way we approach differences in the church? What are some practical ways we can embody humility, gentleness, patience, and love in our relationships with others, especially within the church community?

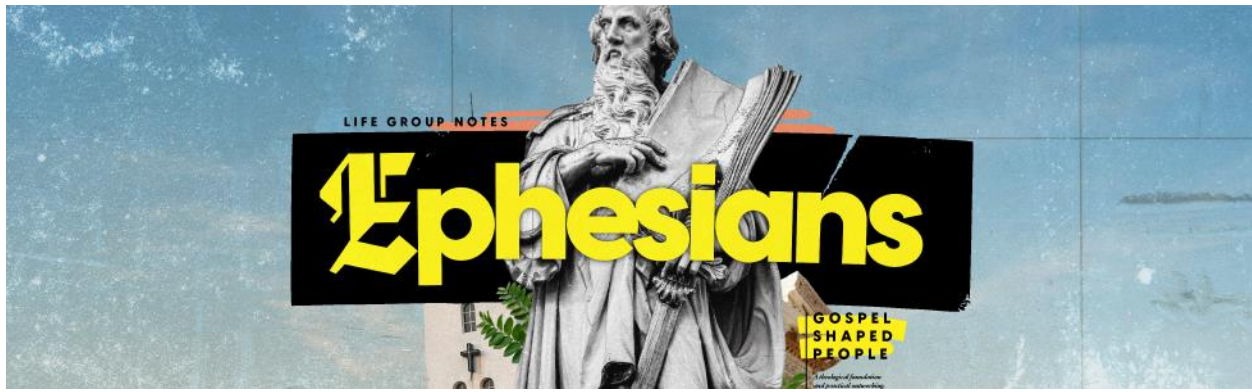
Chilliwack Do we 'eagerly' maintain unity or is it a chore? What are destroyers of peace and unity within the church? What grace has God afforded you in serving His body? Are you using the gifts he has given?

Harrison What responsibility do each of us have to our church? How well are you fulfilling that responsibility? Do you feel more unified with coworkers, teammates, or people with whom you align politically than you do with people at your church? What steps can you take to build more unity with other Christians, particularly those with whom you don't easily get along?

Promontory What do you believe is the greatest cause of disunity within churches? How have you sought to develop unity within the groups you're part of? Is "unity" the same thing as no dissension?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?
An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*"Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2*