

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Unity of the Church” Ephesians 4:1-7

Sermon Series Title: “The Church of God”

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We’re going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

Passage Setting: Ephesians is written by the apostle Paul when he was in prison. The first three chapters of this letter cover the blessings of our salvation by grace, our regeneration by His Spirit, our reconciliation with God and others, who we are as a church, the mysteries of the gospel, and Paul’s prayer for our growth in it.

Summary: After talking about the theology of our salvation and the church in the first three chapters, Paul starts off the application of that theology, talking about the unity of the church. Paul calls us to maintain the unity we already have in Christ with humility, patience, and peace. This unity is found in our faith and is rooted in our Triune God.

Central Truth: “May we live out the unity we have in Christ.”

Sermon Points:

1. The Fruit of our Unity
2. The Root of our Unity

Opening Question

1. What does a united church look like?

(Answers may vary.)

After talking about the theology of our salvation in the first three chapters, Paul transitions into the application of that theology in our passage today. He starts by talking about the unity of the church.

Read Ephesians 4:1-7

Community Group Discussion Questions

2. What does it mean for the church to have unity?

(Unity is the opposite of division. We must not be divided into groups that hate and/or avoid one another. At the same time, unity is not uniformity. We are called to not be divided, but we are called to have diversity. Christ has given many gifts to His church, and we do look different. The Ephesian church looked different. But on the other hand, we are united IN Christ, meaning that we are not united just for unity's sake. We don't compromise truth, faith, and confession to maintain unity.)

According to our passage, it is our doctrine and confession of Christ that unites us. We have the unity of the Triune Godhead within our church. It is rooted in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We maintain this unity with humility, gentleness, and patience. Humility means not to think less of oneself but to think of oneself less (often). Gentleness is our attitude of meekness toward others. We aren't harsh, nor are we trying to cut each other down. We are to build one another up. Patience literally means long-suffering. We suffer whatever it takes to maintain our unity. We bear with one another and bear the burdens of one another.)

3. What is our hope for this unity?

(This unity is only possible through the finished work of Christ. He reconciles us to God, and He brings the unity within the Triune Godhead into the church by the power of His Spirit. He is our confession, hope, and baptism. He is the One who was humble to obey the Father's will, gentle toward sinners like us (Gentle and Lowly), patient (suffering long for us), and bearing with us, despite our rebellious spirit. He is the One who has poured out His grace upon us and who lost all peace on the cross to make peace with us and make us have peace with one another. He was torn apart, so He may bring us together. He makes us sons of God by being orphaned on the cross.)

Final Thoughts: Paul calls us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling we have been called. In the first three chapters, we have been called spiritually blessed, regenerated, saved, reconciled to God, reconciled to one another, citizens, household of God, and God's dwelling place. To live with such a high calling, we are called to be united in Christ by the power of the Spirit. Unity has been purchased and given to us. Now, it's our turn to live in it.