

## Conclusion

*We need each other on our worst of days. Sometimes it is so we can change to be more like Jesus. Sometimes it is so we can witness someone else being like Jesus.*

*God designed us to be together. A community. A family. One. At any cost.*

(Ephesians 3:14-21)

## Community Group Questions

### Love the Gospel

- What does this passage tell us about the Christian life? What is that life all about? Why do we live it?
- What does this passage tell us about Christian community?
- What is the goal of Christian community? What is your role in it?
- How would you put this passage in your own words?

### Live the Gospel

*Paul is very clearly saying, there's a life to be lived in community and under the hope of Jesus. Where every part of life is filled with the singular love of God to us and in us.*

- How do you respond to that?
- What does that hit in your emotions? What distance is there between what you read and what you believe?

### Advance the Gospel

- How can we encourage one another to walk worthy of the gospel this week? Be specific.
- If time allows, give space and opportunity for each person to name a specific area where they need the community to give encouragement or reminders to walk worthy of the gospel this week.

## FAMILY MATTERS

**Living like the family you are.**

Ephesians 4:1-6

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## Introduction

From Genesis to Revelation this theme of FAMILY is central to the gospel story and it is central to us as God's people...the Church.

As family members, we each see Jesus *amongst us* as we rely on Him and grow in His likeness. It is in these times when the world can peer into our drama to see the dramatic gospel transformation taking place in our households and in our church family.

*God promises to use the church, His family, to bring honor and glory to His name.*

## I. The Family of God. (Ephesians 1 - 4:1)

Paul spends chapter 1-3 sharing truth after truth about who we are as God's people.

These metaphors that Paul uses help us to understand a key concept that runs throughout this letter...*though we are individuals, we as God's people, are united in Him.*

- 4:1a - Because Paul believes these truths he says, "I am a prisoner For the Lord!"

(3:14 & Chapter 6) - Paul tells how he prays for the church and then he asks the Ephesians to partner in prayer for him too!

- Paul has a *we-are-in-this-together mentality.*

(4:1b) - "I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling in which you have been called".

- Paul gets it. He is in this together with them, as family, even if the prison walls or iron bars or a stationed guard is separating them.

*For those of us who follow Jesus and trust God with our lives, we too are in this family. We have been called by God Himself into His family.*

## II. Live Like the Family You Are (Ephesians 4:1b-4:3)

(4.1b) "...walk in a manner of the calling to which you have been called".

- In other words, "Now live like the Family you already are!
  - You are family (Chapters 1-3)
  - Now live like it! (4:1-3)

*Who we are matters. Family matters.*

WHOSE we are must determine what we do. If we get this backwards and think our performance determines who we are, then our identity is rooted in our actions. It's a false identity. It is a lie.

- Because we are already family, we must live like it. If we don't live like it... we are living like imposters.

(4:1 - 4:2) We see that we have been called with humility, gentleness, and patience as Jesus has shown this to us in every way.

We have been brought into God's family through *humility*. Phil 2

We also have been brought into God's family with *gentleness* (meekness). Mark 10:45

We have been brought into God's family with *patience*. 2 Peter 3:9

You have been called to *endure (bear with) one another*. Eph. 2:4-5

## III. Our Family Union (Ephesians 4:4-4:6)

(v4) We, the body, are one with God the Spirit who lives inside of all of us.

(v5) We are one with Christ our Lord, which is expressed through baptism, as we place our faith in his death and resurrection.

(v6) We are one with God the Father...who is "*Father of all, over all, through all, and in all.*"

This is our hope, that just as God has turned us, a bunch of orphan rebels into the united family of God, that He would unite all things.

- God is renewing our broken world and He is starting where the problem originated, the hearts of men.

As we live as a united family we reveal to the world the most beautifully framed family picture ever taken... and it is just as Jesus prayed.

- John 17:20-23.

*We are part of a greater picture than just ourselves. We are part of the family of God, one with God, for eternity, and for all to see.*