



One Church- Eph 4:1-16

Nov 17 - Dave Navarro

INTRO

In Ephesians 4, the book shifts into a new focus. Paul has been telling the Ephesians about the work of God in the universe. Now he starts to explain how they can best live in response to God's work in the universe. And the first thing he wants to talk about is how they live together as a church.

Open with prayer¹, then read Eph 4:1-16 together as a group. Consider dividing it by paragraph. It's helpful to all use the same Bible translation. SLC preaches from the NLT.

SERMON RECAP

1. Intro
2. The Pivot Point (V1)
 - a. Worthy = *axios*
 - b. Calling.
3. Spiritual Oneness (V2-5)
 - a. Paul's first instruction is to work for unity/oneness (V2-3).
 - b. Unity a live wire for the Ephesian church. Jews and Gentiles integrated (see Eph 2:11-18).
 - c. One body, one Spirit, etc. The whole direction of God's work in the universe is toward oneness. Live in step with this.
 - d. Oneness and denominationalism?
4. Equipping God's People (V6-12)
 - a. Pastors aren't called to DO ministry, but to EQUIP GOD'S PEOPLE for ministry.

¹ Some groups prefer to begin with a longer time of sharing and prayer. This is a good instinct and ensures that prayer time doesn't get shortened by time constraints.



- b. Equipping at SLC.
- 5. Spiritual Maturity (V13-16)
 - a. New Teaching (V14): Tossed vs. Stable
 - b. Truthing in Love (V15)
- 6. One Lord, One Head, One Cornerstone.
- 7. SLC Anniversary & Communion

BONUS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you're covering 2 sermons in 1 Life Group meeting, skip to the Core Discussion Questions to save time. Otherwise, start here.

1. What is the church tradition/denomination that you're most familiar with? What do you appreciate most about it?
2. Read John 17:20-21. Here, in his prayer at the Last Supper, Jesus prays that all of his followers would be *one*.
 - a. According to Jesus, what would be the results of this oneness (John 17:23)?
 - b. What is the connection between John 17:23 and Ephesians 3:10? In both verses, how does the church function in the world?
3. Paul states in V13-14 that Christian maturity means we aren't easily thrown off-course by new/false/unhelpful teachings. How can the church be wise about handling changing times and new information with open minds, but with a commitment to Christian faithfulness?

CORE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the church tradition/denomination that you're most familiar with? What do you appreciate most about it?
2. Dave stated that the word "worthy" (axios) in V1 isn't about earning our calling. It's about responding to being called into God's story. What difference does this distinction make?
3. Read V12 and V16. Notice that both speak of Christ's body, the church, building itself up.
 - a. How does the imagery of a body explain the relationship between unity and diversity in the church?
 - b. How does the imagery of a body explain how growth works in the church?
4. In V15, Paul calls the Ephesians to the activity of "speaking the truth in love."



- a. Read Revelation 2:1-7. This is a time when another Apostle (John) spoke the (hard) truth in love to the Ephesian church.
 - b. What are the consequences of speaking the truth without love?
 - c. What are the consequences of love without truth-telling?
 - d. The Greek in V15 is literally “truthing in love.” This suggests that we participate in truth more deeply than just by speaking truth. What might this look like? Share examples from your own experience of people “truthing in love.”
5. Where does SLC need to grow toward maturity? What gifts has God given to people within the church to enable this to take place?

ACT & PRAY

1. As a group, share areas of praise and need (be honest with your own struggles regarding prayer). Write them down so you can be praying for them during the week.
2. Remind yourselves of your Adopt-a-Missionary, and any prayer requests you’ve seen from them.
3. Spend time praying, either all together, or in smaller groups. Feel free to experiment with silent prayer, written prayer, etc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Our Christmas Eve service will be Dec 24 at 5pm. Mark your calendars. This is a very visitor-friendly service, so please invite friends.
2. SLC will be running Alpha in the New Year. Alpha is a high-quality course for those exploring faith, or for Christians who want tools for talking about their faith! Begin thinking about whom you could invite, and whether you’d like to attend.

