



Ephesians 4

10-5-11

In Ephesians 4, Paul moves from discussing the content of the gospel to living out the gospel in our everyday lives. He goes from explaining God's purpose for the church to how it should function and share life together. Paul turns from what God has done for us in previous chapters to what we must be and do in the chapters that follow.

"Life Together Means..."

1. I strive for _____ v. 1-6
2. I serve through _____ v. 7-13
3. I grow in _____ v. 14-24
4. I behave to the best of my _____ v. 25-32

Study/Discussion Questions

1. Read the character qualities Paul urges us to take on in 4:2 (extra: look up Matt. 11:29 to see how Jesus described himself). How can these traits help us fulfill the command in 4:3?
2. In verses 4-6 Paul repeats the word *one* seven times and three of those allude to the persons of the Trinity. How does the unity of our God relate to Christian unity? What do you think Paul was concerned about for the believers in Ephesus?
3. How would you like to grow in the ways you use your spiritual gifts to fulfill the purposes listed in v. 11-13?
4. Read v. 14-15. How do you see the church today influenced by "every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming"? What's the difference between how a more "mature" vs. "immature" Christian might respond?
5. Read v. 19-24. According to Paul, how do the mind, heart and conscience influence the actions of non-believers? Did you find this true before you knew Christ? How have you experienced transformation by putting on the "new self" in Christ?
6. Why would Paul be concerned about "giving the devil a foothold" in the Ephesian church in regards to things like holding onto falsehood and anger (v. 25-27)? According to James 4:7 what is the remedy?
7. Consider those who have hurt or offended you. Have you responded with "bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander or malice" (v. 31)? Consider the truth of v. 32 and ask God to give you the grace to forgive.