

Sermon Discussion Questions

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell

Topic: Ephesians

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16

- Briefly summarize the main points of the sermon.
- What questions do you still have from today's sermon?
- Read Vv. Ephesians 4:1-6
 - What is Paul's personal appeal to the Ephesians in verse 1, and how does he describe his role in encouraging them? (v. 1)
 - What characteristics does Paul urge believers to exhibit in their relationships with others? (v. 2)
 - How does Paul describe the "unity of the Spirit" and the "bond of peace"? (v. 3)
 - What foundational truths does Paul use to emphasize the importance of unity in verses 4-6? How do these truths help maintain unity in the church?
 - How can we live out the virtues of humility, gentleness, patience, and love in our relationships within the church? (See Colossians 3:12-14.)
 - What does it mean to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit" in a church that may have diverse backgrounds and perspectives? (See Romans 12:4-5.)
 - How can a strong understanding of our shared faith in one Lord, one faith, and one baptism help resolve conflicts and promote peace in the church? (See Philippians 2:1-4.)
- Read Vv. Ephesians 4:7-12
 - How does Paul explain the grace given to each believer in verse 7? What is the purpose of this grace?
 - What does Paul mean when he speaks of Christ's ascension in verses 8-10? How does this relate to the distribution of gifts to the church?
 - What roles or gifts does Paul mention in verses 11-12? What is their purpose within the body of Christ?
 - How can we understand and appreciate the specific grace given to us in Christ for the building up of the church? (See 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.)
 - What role can you play in using your spiritual gifts to serve others in the church, and how can the church support you in this? (See 1 Peter 4:10-11.)
 - How does Christ's work of giving gifts to the church empower us to fulfill the mission of the church? (See Romans 12:6-8.)
- Read Vv. Ephesians 4:13-16
 - What is the goal Paul sets for the church in verses 13-14? How does he describe spiritual maturity and unity in the faith?
 - What does it mean to "attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ"? (v. 13)
 - How does Paul describe the role of the church in helping believers grow and mature in Christ? (v. 15-16)
 - What is the connection between love and the growth of the church, according to verse 16?
 - How can we, as individuals and as a church, strive to "attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ"? (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
 - How can we encourage one another to grow in spiritual maturity and be grounded in the truth of Christ? (See Hebrews 10:24-25.)
 - How does the church's commitment to speaking the truth in love promote both growth and unity? (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.)