

United & Unique

Ephesians 4:1-16

Main Idea

All believers are united in Jesus and uniquely gifted by Jesus to accomplish His purpose for the Church.

- **God calls us to live _____.** – v 1-6
 - God's Word urges us to live rightly, not because of what's in it for us, but because of what Jesus has already done for us. – v 1
 - Paul's first instructions on living worthy of God's call have to do with living in Christian community. – v 1-3
 - We are to lovingly put up with believers' flaws and to actively pursue unity. – v 2-3
 - Our unity is based on the nature of God and what He's done for us. – v 4-6
- **Jesus equips us to grow in community.** – v 7-16
 - Jesus gifts each individual believer uniquely to minister His grace _____ – v 7-8; 1 Peter 4:10
 - Jesus gifts spiritual leadership to equip the local church to accomplish its purpose. – v 11-12
- **As the church, we are to grow:**
 - In our unity, faith, knowledge of Jesus, and Christlikeness. – v 13
 - In our ability to recognize truth from falsehood. – v 14
 - By speaking the truth in love – v 15
 - By staying connected to and submitted to Jesus – v 15-16
 - By each member making his or her unique contribution – v 16
- **Result:** The church builds itself up in love – v 16

Implications

- We must be regularly, meaningfully, and actively _____ to other believers in the context of the local church to live out the gospel life
- All believers are united in Jesus and uniquely gifted by Jesus.
- Every believer has a role to play in the ministry and growth of the church.
- Becoming like Jesus is a community project and a corporate responsibility.
- Speaking the truth in love is both a measure of Christlikeness and a method of growing in Christlikeness.

Application

- Discover your gifts and how to use them to build up other believers
- Find ways to be meaningfully and regularly connected to other believers (life groups, etc.)
- Invest in growing in your knowledge of Jesus, imitating His character, and speaking the truth out of concern for others' wellbeing (Bible studies, Sunday School, etc.)

Discussion

- How can you actively pursue unity with believers at Grace and beyond?
- How can you use your gifts to help the church grow and mature?
- What does it mean to speak the truth in love and why is it important? – v 15