

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

Growing Up - Ephesians 4:1-16



Opening

1. Historically, when leaders measured the health of their church, they looked at giving and weekly attendance. If you were to advise the leaders of Hope on how to measure the health of our church, what would you tell them to look at?

Engaging

Read Ephesians 4:1-20

1. This chapter marks a transition in Ephesians where Paul is now giving instructions on how the church should live. Look at how he begins in verse 1. What stands out to you?
2. The first piece of instruction is about character: embodying humility, gentleness, and patience. All three of these are challenging for many Christians. Which of these would you say that you struggle with the most? Where do you see manifesting itself (particularly in relationship with believers in the church)?
3. In verse 4-6 Paul underscores the oneness of the church. How are we to read these verses in our current context where there are over 26,000 denominations?
4. In verse 7-8, Paul talks about the grace of Christ in terms of the giftings that each member of the church has. Reflect on your own life for a minute. What gifts has Christ given you? (feel free to consult the gift lists in Romans 12:3-6 and 1 Cor. 12:4-11).

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- a. If it is true that these gifts have been given to build up the church, how are using yours to build others up?
 - b. How have you experienced the gifts of others in the church building you up and maturing your faith in Christ?
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5. In verse 11-12 Paul opens up the importance of leaders in the church and their role in nurturing its health. If you were given the task of planting a church and structuring the leadership so as to maximize the equipping. How would you do it? What pitfalls of common church leadership would you avoid?
 6. In verse 14, Paul describes the challenges that face young believers. When you think of young believers in our context today, what are the challenges they face? What should discipleship look like in light of this?
 7. What makes the last 2 verses a source of hope for Christians today?

Close in Prayer