

Unity in the Body of Christ

St. Nics 11am Bible Study

Bible Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

Main Takeaway: While we all have our own gifts and callings, Christians (and the Church) are united in our belief in Christ. Our differences only strengthen the body of Christ!

Highlights from Passage:

- The Book of Ephesians is a letter. It is a letter written probably by the Apostle Paul to a really young Church in a place called Ephesus. We know it's a letter because it opens with a "Hello!" and ends with a final greeting or "Goodbye!" (Take a look at Chapter 1:1-2 and Chapter 6:21-24).
- Throughout this letter, Paul encourages the readers in the Church in Ephesus to live a transformed life.
- One of the big things Paul asks of the Church in Ephesus is to live in unity and harmony with one another.



Going Deeper:

- In verse 1 of chapter 4, Paul urges the Christians in Ephesus to live a "life worthy of the calling to which you have been called." Here, Paul is encouraging Christians to live differently to how the rest of world lives. Why do you think Christians are called to live differently? Can you think of one or two examples of how Christians live differently?
- Paul continues by highlighting five different traits Christians should live out. Can you find them in the text? (CLUE: they are somewhere near the beginning!). Can you think of a time when you acted with one of these characteristics? E.g Can you think of a time when you were patient?
- In verse 3, Paul urges Christians to keep peace and unity. Why do you think Christians are called to live in peacefully with one another?
- While Paul encourages us all to live out Christian virtues, he also notes that we each have our own gifts. He says some people are called to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some pastors and some teachers. Paul is teaching us that we all have different gifts and jobs to do. Paul is reminding us that you are uniquely created and gifted – how cool is that!?
- Why is it important that people in the Church have different gifts? Why didn't God make us all exactly the same? Can you find an answer in the text? (CLUE: Look at the end!)