

THE BOOK OF
EPHESIANS



Week of June 16 , 2024

A UNIFIED BODY

Ephesians 4.1-16

Speaker: Pastor Jordan Smalley

ICEBREAKER

What was your favorite vacation spot as a child?



Introduction

- Your challenge last week was to pray daily and seek God's help with B.H.A.P. Have you seen God working in your B.H.A.P this week?

A Unified Body Starts with "U"(v.1-2)

- Ephesians 4:2-3 calls us to "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. "Is there someone in your life that you have "canceled" because of a conflict? What issues are preventing unity? How can we overcome them?
- In a culture that says EXALT YOURSELF, how do you think of yourself less and God more?
- Pastor Jordan talked a lot about meekness and humility. Do you see these traits as a weakness, and is that how God intended it?

Prayer for Christ in our Heart (v.3-6)

- Paul says in Ephesians 4:3 that we should make every effort to keep ourselves united. What are some examples of how we can do that, even when there is differing opinion?

- In Ephesians 4:4-6, Paul reminds the people of the church of Ephesus of these UNIFYING truths! He says there is One Body, One Spirit, One Glorious Hope, One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God and Father. In which of these areas do you need to fight for unity? What can you change to allow unity to be more present in your life?
- We all will experience conflict in our lives, and sometimes that turns into us complaining about the situation. How do you deal with a conflict with someone so that it brings unity instead of division?

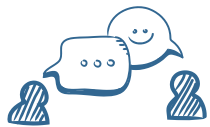
A Unified Body Uses its Diverse Gifts For ONE Purpose (v. 7-12).

- What gifts do you have at your place of work and how do you use them?
- What gift do you have inside of you that you could use to help unify the body of Christ? What area of the body of Christ could be unified more because of your gift?

A Unified Body is a Body That Matures (v.13-16).

- What do you do intentionally in your life (reading scripture, prayer, serving, etc.) to grow and mature in your relationship with the Lord?
- What gifts are you using at work, in your personal life, and at church to mature in our own life and contribute to the maturity of others?
- What are some good questions you can ask yourself in your daily life and time in the word to produce growth?

ACT ON IT



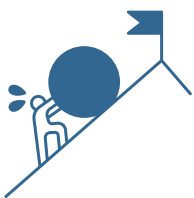
Encourage

We encourage you to start becoming unified with the body of Christ. God gives us gifts on earth to continue his work on earth. Each one of our gifts are important, including yours! The world NEEDS what is on the inside of you.



Ask

Before this message, did you realize you were such a vital member of the body of Christ? Pray and ask God to reveal your giftings then ask where He wants you to serve. Then GO!!



Challenge

Take the following list and reflect upon it daily this week. Pray that God will reveal to you the areas in which you lack strength and provide ways for you to achieve each of these items throughout the week and on from there.

1. COMMIT to being a people of UNITY (conduct, attitude, actions)
2. COMMIT to BEING EQUIPPED IN YOUR GIFT (Growth Track, lead a small group)
3. COMMIT to GROWING/Maturing (Small Groups, Rooted, Alpha, Pastoral Care, Freedom Group, etc.)

PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for your word. We ask that you help us be unified, not just in our way of thinking, but in your word, and use your word to know you and that we allow it to transform us to be more like you. Lord, we know that in a body, there are many members and that each member has a designed purpose, so help us find our purpose in the Body of Christ and walk in that. Help us use our gifting that you have blessed us with to show people the love of Christ. Help us lead people to you and to be unified in your ways. We thank you for revealing yourself to us and revealing ways that we can help others grow closer to you. Lord, we love you, we thank you. In Jesus's name, Amen.