

Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series	Rooted
Sermon Title	Practicing the Presence and the Power
Bible Texts	Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16
Date	May 5, 2024

CONNECT – Getting to know one another

- Question 1: Think of a time when you felt a deep sense of unity with a group or team. What was the basis of your unity? Did you all hold some purpose, goal or interest in common? How did that unify you?
- Question 2: Does the image of being “a prisoner of the Lord” fit with how you picture your relationship with Jesus?

EQUIP – Understanding God’s word

Living a life that is worthy of our calling

- Question 3: Paul calls us to live “a life worthy of the calling you have received.” What do you interpret that to mean for you and your walk with Christ?
- Question 4: What are some ways Christians measure their success at living a life worthy of their calling? How do these things compare with Paul's description in verses 2-3?
- Question 5: Why does Paul call himself “a prisoner for the Lord”? Where was he when he wrote this letter? (6:19-20) In what way was that “worthy” of his calling as an apostle?

Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace

- Question 6: How do you interpret Paul's call to unity here in verse 3? What would “unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” look like? What are you doing personally toward this goal?
- Question 7: Verses 4-6 describes seven “ones”. How would you summarize how these “ones” contribute to the unity of the church? How are these connected to the very nature of God himself?
- Question 8: Why is knowing that we have “one Spirit, one Lord, one God and Father of all” important to us personally? How is it reassuring to know that our one God is over all?

In order to bring us to maturity and full unity, God has given many gifts.

- Question 9: The list of roles in the church described in verse 11 are important to the effectiveness of the local church. In your own words briefly describe each one.
- Question 10: Why did God give the church apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers? What is the intended goal for their ministries?
- Question 11: Did you find seven? Look closely. What are the first two goals? “to prepare ... so that ...” (v 12)
- Question 12: What are the next three? “until we all ... and become ... attaining to ...” (v 13)
- Question 13: What are the next two? “Then we will ...” (v 14) “Instead ...” (v 15)
- Question 14: Why is the first goal so critical: “to prepare God's people for works of service”? Why does the entire chain break if we neglect this one?

Unity, maturity, fullness

- Question 15: How does Paul describe our “immature” state in verse 14? What do the winds and waves symbolize?
- Question 16: Thinking of a time from your own life experience when you have believed a lie, what was the impact? Did your experience reflect the description in v 14?
- Question 17: What are some characteristics of a mature believer according to v. 4:13-16?

DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

- Question 18: In Paul's description of “a life that is worthy of the Lord” (4:1-3), which qualities are you most committed to living out?
- Question 19: What specific steps can we take to avoid being “tossed back and forth the by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching”?
- Question 20: If we feel animosity or superiority toward a believer because of a different view or opinion they hold, what does it tell us about ourselves and what we value most?
- Question 21: As you reflect on your gifts and talents, are you actively exercising those gifts? If not, what could you do this next week to move forward in using your gifts and talents?