

Home Group Leader's Notes
Week of October 12, 2025
Ephesians 4:1-16



Hello Friends,

This opening paragraph is especially for those newer to Home Groups but also an encouragement to us that our study of God's Word allows us to have deeper discussions and application conversations.

Hello Home Group friends. Here is a brief overview of the Home Group Notes. The purpose of the first section of questions ("Learn from God's Word") is to encourage study of the passage to know God and His ways and grow in your faith. It is best if you study the passage and answer the questions before your group gathers to discuss the application questions (DISCUSS TOGETHER). Finally, there is an application suggestion (APPLY IT THIS WEEK) that may be helpful.

LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

Read Ephesians 4:1-16 and consider the following questions.

What are the key commands in verses 1-3?

After Paul shared the amazing truths, he urged us to focus on making unity, pursuing the building up of the family of God, and live worthy of the blessings of God.

It is important to notice that the key commands are all relational:

- Be humble
- Be gentle
- Be patient

All three are essential for unity and love

What has Paul (the author) emphasized in the first three chapters? How does this lay the foundation for his commands in this passage?

- 1) What Jesus accomplished for all people who trust in Him
- 2) To remember with humility and thankfulness what we were before we were in Christ and what we are now.
- 3) How God is making ONE new person, a unified family of God

Our obedience and purpose in life will foster God's purposes and blessings in the family of God.

According to verses 4-6, what are the roots of unity?

The roots of unity are found in God's design and purpose. It was God who designed us to be ONE.

- No longer Jews and gentiles but one family
- The Spirit of God unified us
- We share the same hope (1 Peter 1)
- Jesus is Lord of all
- We all have put our trust (faith) in Jesus
- We were all identified with Jesus' death and resurrection in baptism
- There is one God who is over all things

Notice that Paul lists SEVEN items; seven is God's perfect or complete number

There is a change in focus to diversity in verse seven. What are the origins and purposes of diversity? (vs.7-10)

The grace of God came through what Jesus accomplished on the cross. The word “grace” means unearned favor and includes gifts or endowments of grace that become abilities to serve others. The gifts are people that God uses to bring grace into our lives. That is, they have gifts God uses to help us “build up the body of Christ” and reach “unity in the faith.”

How is unity and diversity seen in God Himself?

God Himself has diversity in unity.

- Three persons – diversity
- One essence – unity
- Perfect love and oneness

How does this diversity bring about unity in God’s family? (11-16)

Since every believer is gifted to bring grace, this makes for an amazing team with the same purpose – to “reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature.”

What is the role of first five gifts (11-12) given by God?

Each of the first five gifts are focused on helping the family of God know the truth of God and bring it to more people. We will always need to be growing in the knowledge of God and how we can share this with the people in God’s family and those in our worlds.

How does every member of God’s family contribute to God’s purpose? (13)

Maturity, fullness on Christ is a lifelong process. During this time, God uses many people with different giftedness and teamwork. We need each other more than we know.

What is the opposition to the unity and maturity God wants to bring about in His family? (14)

- False teaching in our world
- Opposition (the world, the devil)
- Crafty / cunning people who deceive us

Note again the need for the first five gifts that focus on truth.

What is God’s design for teamwork in His family? (15-16)

Every disciple is to focus on speaking the truth in love.

Every disciple is to use their gifts to help with spiritual growth.

Every disciple is to keep Christ as the head / leader.

Every disciple plays a part in the process of the growth of the body.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What is God bringing about in His family and how does this reflect God Himself?

unity, love, health, growth, teamwork, grace

How is everyone in God’s family engaged in the same purpose? And what is our role in bringing about God’s purpose?

God has given people gifts, assigned them a role, taught us how to live in love and unity, and keep Jesus central and leading in our family.

Why do you suppose the process of unity in diversity involves understanding calling (1), teaching (11), and truth (15)? **opinion question**

What sense or impression about the family of God do you have from this passage?
opinion question

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

This is a good week to be thankful for the three blessings that you have in God's family: (1) You are called by God Himself, (2) You have been given grace and gifts to serve His family, and (3) you have a place in "the work of ministry" to build up "the body of Christ." This means that you have meaning and eternal purpose. Praise God!

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for the unity of Trinity Church. The enemy would like to destroy our unity in Jesus.
- Pray for our family friends who are suffering deep loss
- Pray for our upcoming connections through our Halloween outreach in downtown Redlands and in our neighborhoods.

I am praying you as you are essential to God's plans and purposes for our church. May He give you insight as you study and wisdom as you lead and love His family.

Steve