

Living in Gospel Community
August 30th, 2015

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Ephesians 4:1-16

- ☀ Read the texts at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the texts? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the texts? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. Paul begins the chapter with the word “Therefore”. What is the significance of that word? What does it point us back to?

2. What is Paul’s major request in verse 1? What do you think that he means by this? Paul lists 5 characteristics of walking “in a manner worthy of your calling” in verses 2 and 3. List each one and describe how the characteristic would manifest itself in your life.

4. What is the word that is repeated 7 times in verse 4-6 and for what purpose does Paul emphasize it? 5. List the items that Paul describes with the word “one”. What does each one mean?

6. In verses 7-10, Paul describes the fact that God has given us Grace and Gifts. He then quotes Psalm 68:18 to make his point. What is he talking about?

7. What are the five “gifts” that God gave the church that Paul lists in verse 11? What do you think each one of these refers to? What is the purpose of all of the gifts of the church in verse 12? What do you think that means?

9. Verse 12 summarizes how the church should operate and what the goal should be. How well do churches as we know them do this and what could be done differently?

10. What is the goal of the church body in verse 13? Verses 14-16 summarize Paul’s view of “Church Growth”. What is he saying the goal of the church is?

“Living in community will create conflict. Whether you see the church as family or an event will determine how you handle it.”

NEXT STEPS

- God has designed each person intentionally so that they can serve Him. As you look at your own life, how has God uniquely designed you for ministry? (i.e. personality, gifts, passions, experiences)
- God has designed the church to be a “mosaic”, a bunch of different shapes and sizes that fit together to demonstrate Christ. Who are the people around you, who God designed different from you, that help you to put Christ on display. If you can’t think of people like this, how can you pursue Christian community?