

Sept. 13 – Small Group - The Unity of the Spirit

Ephesians 4 is the fulcrum of the book of Ephesians as Paul moves from right belief to right behavior. The first three chapters of Ephesians reveal the eternal purposes of God in Jesus, to put everything that is out of place in the world back into its proper place. Jesus comes to a people who are alienated from God in sin and brings forgiveness, adoption as God's children, a new way of being human. Jesus comes to a world that experiences division between tongue and tribe and nation and opens up a path to reconciliation between all people. Jesus comes to a world marred by sin and injustice and gives us a new future where all things will come under his healing reign. In chapter 4 Paul begins to tell us that the way in which God is working out that eternal purpose in the world is through the church. He then invites the church to "walk worthy of the calling to which we have been called".

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

1. (1) The word worthy was not about measuring up. It was a word used of scales. When you put a weight on one side of the scale you needed to put another weight of equal value on the other side to balance the scale out. If the above paragraph reflects the new reality that Jesus brings about, how would we walk in balance with that calling? In other words, how do we conduct ourselves as church that properly reflects this new reality?
2. (3-6) This passage is all about the gifts that God gives us so that we might walk in balance with the calling. The first gift that we are given is the unity of the Spirit. What is the basis for this unity?
3. Have you ever experienced this kind of unity? What was it like?
4. Be eager to maintain the unity. One of the things Tim mentioned to maintain this unity is to approach everyone and every interaction through the lens of who we are in Christ and what God has done for us in Jesus. What might this look like practically?
5. What other things could be done to maintain this unity?