

Small Group – Leader’s Guide – Sept 18/22

Read Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

1. In v. 2-3, St. Paul lists a set of virtues by which the Christian community is called to conduct itself among its members. These virtues are "social virtues". Why are these virtues called "social" and how are they specifically expressed or experienced in relationships and in community?
2. In v. 13, St. Paul describes the heavenly goal of Christian community as attaining to the maturity, fullness, and stature of Jesus Christ. Each individual Christian is called towards personal holiness and godliness, and it involves personal discipline like personal Bible study, prayer, fasting, or generosity and service to the disenfranchised. But how does a Christian community *collectively* grow up in Christlikeness? What does that look like for a local church?
3. In v. 15, St. Paul attributes our growing up together into Jesus by our "speaking the truth in love". In this case, the word "truth" is synonymous to the teachings of Holy Scripture relating to God and the Gospel of His Christ. What does it look like for a community to speak the truth in love to one another?
4. In v. 16, St. Paul describes how a maturing Christian community operates in real-time and in real space, all things being equal. That is, the whole body being "joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." The description is abstract, but specifically, what does it look like in church when we are joined together, when each part properly works, and when our church builds itself up in love?