MAINTAIN THE UNITY

Small Group Discussion Guide | Ephesians 4:1–6

KEY PASSAGE Ephesians 4:1–6

Purpose

To understand how our calling in Christ shapes our daily walk, why Christian unity requires intentional maintenance, and how the seven shared truths of Ephesians 4:4–6 provide a foundation for life together.

1. The Worthy Walk • 4:1

Ephesians moves from the spiritual blessings and doctrinal truths of chapters 1–3 to their practical implications in chapters 4–6. Our "walk," or manner of life, should reflect the calling we have received in Christ.

2. Maintaining Unity through Love • 4:2–3

Unity is not automatic. It is maintained through humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with one another in love. This means accepting one another's uniqueness and weaknesses rather than making relationships about personal reward.

3. The Seven Pillars of Truth • 4:4–6

Christian unity rests on objective shared realities: one Body, one Spirit, one Hope, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, and one God and Father of all.

KEY TRUTH Unity is maintained through Christlike love and grounded in the truths believers already share in Christ.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

Opening

Read Ephesians 4:1–6. What does the metaphor of a "walk" mean to you in your daily life?

Discussion

1. Unity requires "maintenance," much like a car or house. Why do we often assume church unity should be effortless, and what happens when we stop maintaining it?

2. Paul lists humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance. Which of these is currently the most challenging for you to practice with others, and why?

3. What does it look like to "bear with one another in love" while still holding to biblical truth? How do we balance the two?

4. Paul lists seven "ones": Body, Spirit, Hope, Lord, Faith, Baptism, and God. Why is it important for the church to share these objective foundations rather than rely on personal preference?

5. How does the reality that there is "one body" worldwide, not just our local congregation, change the way you view other Christians or other churches?

Personal Application

This week: Is there a specific person or situation where you need to practice more "forbearance"? What would a concrete step of humility, gentleness, or patience look like?

Closing Prayer

Pray for the unity of the church, both the congregation that meets at WLCC and the worldwide church. Ask the Spirit to help us maintain the unity in such a way as it will display the manifold wisdom of God even to rulers and authorities in the hevenly places.