

For Further Study:

“Life Together” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Total Church” by Tim Chester and Steve Timmis

“The Peacemaker” by Ken Sande

“God in the Docks” by CS Lewis

<http://www.intentionaldiscipleship.net/Ministry-Match>

Small Group Questions:

1. Eph. 4:1 is the key verse for the entire book. What is the “calling” we have received, and how do we live a life worthy of it?
2. What were some of the obstacles to unity that the Ephesian church experienced? What obstacles to unity might we experience in our church today? What personal responsibility do you have to take to promote unity?
3. Take a moment to identify each other’s spiritual gift. Think in terms of how we are ministered to by one another. (You may want to consult the following passages: Rom 12, 1 Cor 12, Eph. 4 and 1 Peter 4).
4. Pastor Eric encouraged us to Discover, Develop, and Deploy our spiritual gifts. Which of these do you need to focus on? How can we help each other with this?
5. Pastor Eric stated that “Interdependence was the mark of maturity” not independence. Do you agree or disagree? How do you square this statement with 1 Thes. 4:12?

“A Gift-Giving God”

Ephesians 4:1-16 (NIV)

1. **God has given us the privilege of belonging to a unified church (2-6)**
 - a. Unity requires personal humility (2)
 - b. Unity requires the pursuit of peace (3)
 - c. Unity recognizes our connection in Christ (4-6)
2. **God has given us the privilege of serving each other with spiritual gifts (7-13)**
 - a. Each one has received a spiritual gift (7)
 - b. Spiritual gifts are given for the common good (11-13)
 - c. Spiritual gifts signal the triumph of Christ (8-10)
3. **God has given us the privilege of maturing together as one body (14-16)**
 - a. Maturity is measured corporately (14-16)
 - b. Paul implores us to pursue our calling with a sense of urgency! (1)

“We cannot expect the world to believe that the Father sent the Son, that Jesus’ claims are true, and that Christianity is true, unless the world sees some reality of the oneness of true Christians.” – Francis Schaeffer