



# One Worship

## EPHESIANS 4:1-6

ONE WORSHIP

AUGUST 6, 2023

### AT A GLANCE

*Pastor Jeff charged us to long for unity and to commit to cultivating it as we worship one God, who is over all and through all and in all.*

### SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Jeff preached passionately that the Church isn't something we do, it's who we are. However personal our individual saving faith will be, it is never private. Instead, being a part of Christ's Church means we belong to God and each other. We are meant to be one part of the whole body of Christ, the people who God has called out to be his own.

The beauty of this truth is that we were formerly alienated from God and in fragmented community, living in strife.

Now in Christ, we experience belonging and unity, despite all our sins and diversity. We are ONE, through one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

Knowing how hard community was before Christ, we shouldn't be surprised that there are obstacles to this unity now. That's why when we are baptized into Christ's family, it comes with the responsibility to maintain this unity through humility, perseverance, and selflessness that comes through faith in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Jeff charged us then to long for this unity, to commit to cultivating it as we worship one God, who is over all and through all and in all.

### DISCUSSION

**Read Ephesians 4:1-6**



*This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.*

*Group facilitator: you do not need to ask every question but can select the best ones for your group dynamic.*



## EPH 4:1-6

The Acts of the Spirit  
GATHERING THE CHURCH

### Expand our Awareness

Pastor Jeff shared a story from Myanmar, where there is a legal dispute over the freedom to worship v the freedom of religion. He explained the difference this way:

**Freedom of Worship:** A worship service contained inside a building but doesn't impact the rest of a person's life or society.

**Freedom of Religion:** Living every part of life according to your religious beliefs.

- Do you see evidence of this distinction in our culture? Why or Why not?
- Why do you believe seeing faith as something we "do" instead of "who we are" tends to be a universal temptation?

Pastor Jeff said that we all have unity around a few shared experiences. One of those experiences is that we were once alienated from Christ and fragmented in community.

- What is alienation, and what is it like to experience it?
- What is a fragmented community, and what is it like to experience one?
- Where do you see alienation and fragmentation in our society today?

### Explore Your Experience

- How do you experience the temptation to see Church as "something you do," not "who you are"?

Despite receiving new life in Christ, we often return to feelings of alienation and fragmentation.

- Have you experienced alienation?
- What, in your opinion, caused that feeling?
- Have you ever experienced a fragmented community?
- What, in your opinion, caused that feeling?



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Most of our alienations/fragmentations come from our differences with other people.

- Why are differences so difficult?
- What would happen if you had a community of only people like you?

### Extract the Truth: Re-read the scripture passage

Pastor Jeff explained that Paul is urging the Ephesians, through the whole book, not to let their faith become a private faith just because of difficulty in the Church. They are ONE in Christ.

He calls them to remember, despite their diversity, to remain ONE in Christ...or they will slip back into fragmentation and alienation.

- What comfort can we take knowing that the Ephesians also struggled with unity and belonging?
- Paul challenges them to be eager (or make every effort) to preserve this unity. Why do you believe Paul speaks so strongly about preserving Christian unity?

Pastor Jeff explained that our mandate is to maintaining not manufacture unity. God is the one who produces unity; only by returning to him through the Spirit can we produce the qualities to maintain Christian unity. Paul listed the qualities: humility, patience, gentleness, and caring for one another burdens.

- What about those qualities uniquely provide the relational environment for unity to thrive?

### Experience Transformation

In order to preserve through the mess of a diverse community, we have to do two things.

- 1- See our identity as belonging to Christ and each other (Who we are, not what we do).
- 2- Remember our previous alienation/fragmentation so we can rejoice in our current belonging.
- 3- See God at work through the mess/frustration of community that will produce oneness.
- 3- Depend on the Spirit to produce qualities necessary for unity to thrive.



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Let's unpack each one to seek real transformation.

1- Does focusing on belonging (to Jesus/ each other) help us to avoid seeing Church community as something we "do" and adopt it's "who we are? Why or why not?

2- How does remembering what alienation/fragmentation felt like help us rejoice in our belonging to the body of Christ today?

3- How can you see God at work through the challenges of community in your life right now?

4- Which qualities Paul listed (humility, patience, gentleness, and bearing one another's burdens) do you want to focus on cultivating (through the Holy Spirit) to help you better engage with community?

### Engage the World

What is one small action step you want to take to connect to Faith Church Community better? (i.e., Serve, Life Group, Bible Study, Cup of coffee, etc. )

### PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Read Acts 4:23-31

