

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 23, 2022

Passage: Various

Memory Passage: Ephesians 4:11-13

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 4:1-6.** What does Paul “urge” the Ephesians to do in 4:1, and on what basis does he urge it (cf. “therefore”)?

(b) What is the significance of the four uses of “calling/called/call” in vs. 1 & 4?

(c) What are the definitions of “humility,” “gentleness,” and “patience,” and what character issues get in the way of believers acting in “all humility and gentleness, with patience?”

(d) Why does “bearing with one another in love” require “humility and gentleness, with patience? How are they connected? Can one bear with another without loving them? Describe what it looks like when someone bears with another without love.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ephesians 4:1-6.** The motivation for obeying vs. 1-2 is that we must be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Meditate on this phrase and write a paragraph describing what it means.

(b) Verses 4-6 detail the reality of our calling. Explain each of the seven “one” statements found in these verses.

(c) Tie it all together: How does our walk (vs. 1-2) maintain the unity of the Spirit (v. 3) and demonstrate the truth of these seven realities? Also, how do these seven realities fuel the walk that is worthy of our calling that maintains the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace?

(d) In what ways do you struggle to walk in this way in the body of Christ? How do vs. 1-6 strengthen your walk?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ephesians 4:11-16.** Explain the purpose (v. 12a) and goal (v. 12b) of the work of the gifts Christ gives to the church (v. 11).

(b) Explain the three states the church must “attain” before the work of these gifts ceases (v. 13, “to . . . to . . . to . . .” ESV).

(c) How does “unity of the faith” in v. 13 connect with “unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” in v. 3?

(d) Explain the negative situation that will be avoided (v. 14) and the positive situation that will be created (vs. 15-16) if the body is indeed equipped and built up (v. 12) with this kind of ministry.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Philippians 2:1-8.** According to v. 2, what will the Philippians do to “complete (his) joy?”

(b) Explain how living according to vs. 3-4 in the body of Christ produces the “one/same” mind of unity Paul desires.

(c) How does Christ’s example (vs. 5-8) equip you to live in line with the life described in 2-4?

(d) **Read Psalm 133.** Did David agree with Paul? How so?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Colossian 3:12-17.** Meditate on these verses and write down at least five corporate and five individual applications that flow from your brief study of unity this week. Notice what Paul says about the overarching principle of love: “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony” (or, “perfect bond of unity”). As you think through these applications, imagine what will happen corporately to BCC if we individually fail to maintain this unity already purchased for us by Christ. Be specific and come to Sunday school ready to discuss these applications and testify how they affected your life this week.

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Unity