



REFLECT:
(20 minutes minimum)

9. Of the “seven ones” Paul mentions, which ones do you think we struggle over most today in the church in our quest to maintain unity? Why?

10. What things would you be tempted to add or delete from Paul’s list of seven (4:4-6)? Why? How do we distinguish between something we think is important and something we’d be willing to sever fellowship over?

11. Why does it seem churches have such a hard time with unity within a congregation? Between congregations?

12. How do we have unity even when we disagree on things we feel are important? Do some things matter more than others? (See Matthew 23:23-24; Mark 12:28-34)



November 8, 2009

Ephesians #8

ONES FOR ALL

EPHESIANS 4:1-6

There's a lot of emphasis this week on application, even within the dig section. As usual, don't expect to get through all the questions but plan on a great, loving discussion, even when you disagree with one another!



OPEN:
(2 minutes)

1. Who was, or is, the peacemaker in your family?

2. The one area we disagree most over in my family is...





Read Ephesians 4:1-6

3. What is the calling we have received? (v.1) What does it mean to “live a life worthy” of this calling?

4. What can believers do to maintain “the unity of the Spirit”?

5. **Why is unity important for the church? Why is diversity important for the church? How do we reconcile unity and diversity?**

6. How does viewing God as Father (not just as Creator or Judge) help us with our understanding of our unity?

7. When the church (individually or universally) is not united, how does that negatively impact our effectiveness in carrying out Christ’s mission?

Quote:

“Ephesians is the unity letter, but we do not value unity. Rather than making every effort to maintain unity (v.3), we sacrifice it at the first airing of differences.”

—*NIV Application Commentary on Ephesians*

8. **What limitations does Paul put on unity? Does Paul advocate “unity at any cost”?**

Quote:

“In matters of faith, unity; in matters of opinion, liberty; and in all things, charity (love).”

– *Slogan from the American Restoration Movement*