



## **“Love, Unity, & Purpose” Small Group Discussion Guide**

In this message, Pastors Justin and Matt explore the book of Ephesians, focusing on the theme of unity that runs throughout Paul's letter. They explain how Paul wrote to the Ephesians around 60 AD during a time of cultural division between Jewish and Greek pagan populations, drawing parallels to our modern context. The pastors highlight how Ephesians is structured with theology in the first three chapters and practical application in the last three. They emphasize four key headlines from the series: we have one specific purpose as God's workmanship, we must be driven by grace, we must be grounded in love, and we must be focused on God's glory rather than our own recognition. The sermon concludes with communion, reminding the congregation that this sacrament symbolizes our unity with Christ and with one another as one body.

Intro Prayer - Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss the powerful message of unity found in Ephesians, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to Your truth. Help us to set aside our own agendas and perspectives so that we might truly understand what it means to be one in Christ. May this time together draw us closer to You and to one another. Guide our conversation and help each person here to hear exactly what You want them to receive today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker - If you could have dinner with any three people from history, who would you choose and why?

### Key Verses

Ephesians 1:9-10

Ephesians 2:8-10

Ephesians 2:14-16

Ephesians 4:1-6

John 17:20-23

### Questions

In what ways do you see division in our world today that mirrors what was happening in Ephesus when Paul wrote this letter?

The sermon mentioned that 'unity is fragile when it's about my recognition.' How have you seen this play out in your own life or in groups you've been part of?

What does it mean to you personally to be 'rooted and grounded in love' as Paul describes in Ephesians?



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How does understanding that we are 'God's workmanship' (Ephesians 2:10) change how you view your purpose and mission in life?

The pastors talked about grace saying 'look at Jesus' rather than 'look at me.' In what areas of your life do you struggle with wanting recognition rather than pointing to Christ?

What practical steps can we take as individuals to maintain the 'unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace' in our relationships with other believers?

How does communion remind us of our unity with Christ and with one another? Has this changed how you view taking communion?

Jesus prayed for our unity in John 17. Why do you think unity was so important to Jesus, and how can we make it more of a priority in our lives?

**Life Application** - This week, identify one relationship or situation where unity has been broken or strained. Prayerfully examine your motives, attitudes, and actions in that relationship. Ask yourself: Am I seeking my own recognition or God's glory in this situation? Then take a specific step toward reconciliation or unity - whether that means offering forgiveness, seeking forgiveness, setting aside a difference of opinion on a non-essential matter, or simply reaching out to someone you've been distant from. Remember that our unity as believers is a testimony to the world about the power of the gospel.

### **Key Takeaways**

- Our purpose as believers is specific and intentional - we are God's workmanship created for good works that He prepared in advance for us to do.
- Grace must drive our interactions with others - we've received unmerited favor from God and should extend the same to those around us.
- Being rooted and grounded in love gives us strength and stability as individuals and as a church.
- Unity is firm when it's about God's recognition rather than our own - our focus should be on making Jesus famous, not ourselves.
- Communion symbolizes not only Christ's sacrifice but also our unity with Him and with one another as one body.

**Ending Prayer** - Lord Jesus, thank You for praying for our unity and for making it possible through Your sacrifice on the cross. We confess that we often prioritize our own recognition, preferences, and agendas over the unity You desire for Your church. Help us to be driven by grace, grounded in love, and focused on Your glory in all we do. As we go from here, may we be agents of reconciliation and unity in our families, workplaces, communities, and church. Give us the courage to examine our motives, attitudes, and relationships honestly, and the humility to make changes where needed. May our oneness as believers be a powerful testimony to a divided world of Your transforming love. In Your name we pray, amen.