



“Unconventional Living ” Small Group Discussion Guide

Summary

In this message, Pastor Todd continues the series on Ephesians, focusing on chapter 4 where Paul transitions from theological foundations to practical Christian living. He emphasizes that who we are in Christ should determine how we live, not the other way around. The sermon highlights Paul's call for believers to walk worthy of their calling with humility, gentleness, patience, and love while eagerly maintaining unity in the Spirit. Pastor Todd stresses that how we carry out our mission is just as important as the mission itself, and that unity in mission is the greatest sign of a strong church. He concludes by encouraging the congregation to embrace Christlike qualities, pursue church unity relentlessly, and approach serving with intentionality.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us. Help us understand what it means to walk worthy of our calling and to maintain unity in the Spirit. Guide our conversation and help each person here to be receptive to Your truth. May this time together strengthen our relationships with You and with each other as we seek to live out the principles in Ephesians 4. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one small act of kindness someone has shown you recently that made a difference in your day?

Questions

Pastor Todd mentioned that 'who you are determines what you do' rather than the world's view that 'what you do determines who you are.' How have you seen this play out in your own life?

Ephesians 4:2 calls us to live with 'all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.' Which of these qualities do you find most challenging to practice, and why?

What does it mean to be 'eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace' (Ephesians 4:3)? How can we demonstrate this eagerness in our daily interactions?



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In what ways have you seen disunity affect a church or Christian community? Conversely, how have you seen unity strengthen a church?

Pastor Todd said, 'If it's just the truth, it's likely not kind. If it's just kindness, it's likely not the truth.' How can we balance speaking truth with kindness in our relationships?

Ephesians 4:26 says, 'Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger.' What practical steps can we take to handle anger in a godly way?

How does verse 29 about 'no corrupting talk' challenge how we communicate with others? What would it look like to consistently speak words that 'give grace to those who hear'?

What is one area from Ephesians 4 where you feel God is calling you to grow or change in how you relate to others?

Life Application

This week, commit to being intentional about your words. Before speaking, especially in potentially difficult conversations, pause and ask yourself: 'Is what I'm about to say both truthful AND kind? Will it build up the other person and give grace?' Keep a small journal noting situations where you successfully spoke truth with kindness and situations where you struggled. At the end of the week, reflect on what you've learned and pray for continued growth in this area.

Key Takeaways

Our identity in Christ (who we are) should determine our actions (what we do), not the other way around.

The way we carry out our mission is just as important as the mission itself.

Unity in mission is the greatest sign of a strong church and requires desire, intention, and effort. As Christians, we are called to speak the truth in love - balancing both truth and kindness in our communication.

We must put off our old self and be renewed in the spirit of our minds to live in a way that reflects Christ.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the powerful truths in Ephesians 4. We confess that living with humility, gentleness, patience, and love doesn't come naturally to us. We need Your Spirit to transform us from the inside out. Help us to be eager for unity, to speak truth with kindness, and to forgive as You have forgiven us. This week, may our words and actions reflect Your character so clearly that others see You in us. Give us courage to live differently from the world, embracing the new self You've created us to be. We pray this in Your name, amen.