

THE WORD

Ephesians 4:1-16

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE PARADOX THE CHURCH IS
2. THE PROBLEM THE CHURCH HAS
3. THE PRESCRIPTION THE CHURCH NEEDS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. What are some ways the church is like a body?
3. The paradox we see about the church in Eph. 4:1-16 is that in the church there is a radical unity and yet at the same time there is an incredible diversity. Take some time to talk about some implications of these two truths. What does this mean for how we handle difficult situations that make us want to divide? What does this mean for the way we help people discover and use their gifts? What are some dangers we run into if we forget that both unity and diversity exist in the church at the same time?
4. The great problem facing us as the church is that we are immature spiritual children. The problem is not outside the church, it is within us. The three symptoms we looked at of being spiritually immature were: 1) Self-centeredness, 2) Lack of stability and 3) Lack of discernment. When you reflect on your own life which of these areas do you see yourself needing to grow?
5. The way that Ephesians 4 says we will break out of our spiritual immaturity is by speaking the truth in love to one another. We naturally tend to emphasize one over the other. Do you lean more toward truth or love? What does Jesus' example show us about doing this well? How does a relationship with Jesus give us the power to actually begin to do this?
6. When was the last time you gave someone permission to speak the truth to you? What are some good ways to respond when someone makes an effort to speak a hard truth to you? What are some bad ways to respond?
7. Take a step this week to apply what you heard. Ask a close friend or family member to speak into your life. If you want exact words to use you can say this, *"I don't want to be spiritually immature. And as much as it scares me to ask this because I know I might not like what I here, I want to give you permission to answer this question with absolute honesty. What is it like to be on the other side of me? Do you see anything in my life that concerns you?"*

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: On the cross Jesus shows us the fullness of truth and love. He tells us the truth about ourselves, that we are so lost, dead and sinful that He had to die for us to be ok. But he also shows us perfect love in that he was willing to die for us.