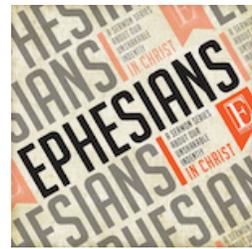


COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION - 6/4-5/13

"EPHESIANS: GIFTED" - EKKLESIA



SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:1-16 ¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

BIG IDEA

Jesus is in heaven, serving the church and giving gifts. He gives us himself, the Holy Spirit, and other people. To each Christian he also gives spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12; Eph. 4; 1 Pet. 4). Spiritual gifts need to be cultivated so that the gift may be used for its intended effectiveness. Some have multiple gifts and different levels of a gift. The entirety of Scripture speaks of at least 22 spiritual gifts: administration, apostle, discernment, encouragement, evangelism, faith, giving, healing, helps/service, hospitality, knowledge, leadership, mercy, miracles, pastoring/Biblical counseling, prophecy, teaching, tongues/interpretation of tongues, and wisdom. Jesus gives gifts so that we may use them together as the church to help one another walk like Jesus, minister like Jesus, mature like Jesus, and love like Jesus. Your gift is not your identity, but how are you gifted?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Was there anything from *Sunday's Sermon* or the *Big Idea* that had an affect on you? Did you hear anything that raised more questions in your mind?
2. What stands out to you in **Ephesians 4:1-16** and why?

3. Which gift(s) gifts has Jesus given you?

*It is important to discover the spiritual gifts you have so that you can cultivate your gifts to use them for their intended effectiveness. As a group, help one another confirm or deny gifts they have. Use this PDF to help you walk through what each of these gifts look like -> [Spiritual Gifts by Mark Driscoll PDF](#).

4. How can you best use your gift(s) to help one another as the church walk, minister, mature, and love like Jesus?

GOOD WORD

Jesus is not a taker; Jesus is a giver. The gospel is not a list of do's; the gospel is a list of done's. Jesus gives us what we truly need and takes away what would surely destroy us. Praise Jesus that He sees fit to give us the gift of Himself, the Holy Spirit, other believers, and spiritual gifts. Let's use them to help the church build itself up in love. Joy to us, glory to Jesus. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EKKLESIA COVENANT MEMBERSHIP

We have opened up the door for people to become Covenant Members of Ekklesia Muskogee. We invite you to get a copy of the [Ekklesia Membership Covenant](#) and the [Ekklesia Doctrinal Statement](#), read and pray over them, then arrange a meeting with a Pastor to discuss, pray, and sign the Covenant together.