

February 20, 2022

## **We Are...**

Pastor David Uth

## **Passage: Ephesians 4:1-6**

*1I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

## **Background**

In his longest prayer recorded in the Gospels, Jesus asks the Father to create and keep His followers united. The apostle Paul echoes this same sentiment throughout most of his letters to the earliest churches. More specifically, in his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul describes the “worthy” manner in which believers should live out their faith. By doing so, Paul reminds them of what binds them all together. It’s not simply location or common interest, but it is their UNION to Christ that brings UNITY among Christ’s followers. Today, Pastor David will encourage all of us to consider how are ONE faith and hope comes from ONE Savior, Jesus, who unites around our ONE mission – to make disciples of all nations.

## **Service Notes**

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## Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

## Getting Started

- What is one thing God is teaching you right now? What has been the greatest benefit to your spiritual life by being connected to the local church? How can we pray for you?

## Talk it Over

- Why is commitment (membership) to a local church important for every follower of Jesus? What role does the local church play in our spiritual maturity? What are the biggest reasons many followers of Jesus are disconnected from any local church? Why do you think this is? How can we help people through their own ‘church hurt’? How can we speak (and live) in a such a way that other people (Christian and nonchristian) see the beauty of committing oneself to attending, growing, and serving with other believers within a local church?
- **Read Ephesians 4:1-3.** How does Paul describe the “worthy” manner of walking with Jesus? Which of these descriptions do you struggle with the most? What does “bearing with one another in love” look like within the local church? How do we get this wrong sometimes? What does it practically look like for believers to be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit?” How well would this describe your life?
- **Read Ephesians 4:3-6.** Why do you think Paul reminds the believers at Ephesus of what they have in common? How can reminding ourselves that we are ONE body and we have ONE Spirit help a local church stay united around God’s mission? What are the greatest barriers to unity within most local churches you have been part of in your life?

## Live it Out

- Who in your life right now is living disconnected from a local church? What is one way you can encourage them this week to find deeper connection and commitment to following Jesus WITH other believers?