

4 August 2024

Sermon: Ephesians (1) - Introduction

Some possible Small Group questions:

1. Name one thing you that struck you from Phillip's sermon on Sun.
 - Leader's note: where appropriate, you might want to pick up on important points, or ask people to share why that was important for them.
2. Why do you think that some people find it difficult to remain in church?
3. Have any of you ever felt that way?
 - Leader's note: if anyone volunteers a personal answer, it might be valuable to draw them out a bit on how that felt, and why they are still here after all.
4. Does it matter that the church comes into being as an act of God's (new) creation, rather than being a social group arising from the initiative of one or more human beings? Discuss in more detail: why does it matter...
 - Leader's note: for example, if the church comes into being as a result of the sovereign will of God (which cannot be thwarted), it invests the church with an identity, purpose and destiny which will persist into eternity; in contrast, no human project has an eternal duration.
5. Ephesians uses 3 main metaphors to describe the church: God's household; Christ's body; the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Break into pairs for a moment, choose one metaphor and discuss what it tells us about the church. Then report back to the group.
6. What do these metaphors tell us about our God?
7. Ephesians portrays the church as being located both "in Christ" and "in Ephesus". How would you describe the relationship between the two?
 - Leader's note: At some point look at Eph 4.1: the church is to live/walk in Ephesus [read Dunedin] in a manner worthy of all that God has done for us in Christ.
8. Was God speaking to any of you personally, through what was said on Sunday?
9. What does it mean for me (personally) to love the church?