

Sun 13th Oct Sermon
Ephesians 4.1-16
Small Group Questions

1. What was important for you in what Phillip preached about on Sunday?
2. What do you think was important for DCBC as a whole church family?
3. Let's explore together the theme of unity in this passage, noting that it is both God's gift and our responsibility. What do the following verses tell us about unity in the church: 4.2-3; 4.4-6; 4.11-13.
 - Leader's note: Unity is:
 - The gift of God: He has made us his people, uniting us under his Lordship, sharing a common faith, as children of one Father, a community in which the Spirit makes his home (4.4-6)
 - Something we maintain through the way we treat one another (4.2-3)
 - Something that is strengthened through the ministry of leaders who equip people to serve and build up the church (4.11-13)
4. Why does Paul say that grace is given to us all (4.7) and then go on to focus on the grace given to a few (4.11-12)?
 - Leaders' note: important to emphasise that apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastor-teachers are there to equip the whole church to serve, each as grace is given to them (see 4.16).
5. Eph 4.14 speaks of a juvenile form of Christianity in which Christians are very vulnerable to false doctrine and deception. What is the cause of this vulnerability?
6. Why do some NZ churches (Baptists?) tend to value pastor-teachers as leaders, but struggle to value evangelists, and those with prophetic and apostolic ministries?
7. What happens to a church that values one form of leader but neglects others?
8. What is the relevance of 4.8-9, speaking about the risen and exalted Christ, to the section as a whole?
 - Leaders' note: it is the authority of the risen Christ, and his generosity (grace) to the church, that secures the health and growth of the church.