

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE  
WEEK OF JUNE 15, 2009

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Walking As One

"I am convinced that in the 20<sup>th</sup> century people all over the world will not listen if we have the right doctrine, the right polity, but are not exhibiting community. There is no use saying you have community or love for each other if that does not get down into the tough stuff of life."

–Francis Schaeffer, *The Church at the End of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

"So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."

Philippians 2:1-2

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Ephesians 4:1-6

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

Col 2; 1 Thes 2; 1 Cor 12, 8:6; Rom 9, 12; Zech 14:9; Jude 1:3; Gal 3:27-28; Phil 2

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
  - Paul's civic status and how it relates to the Ephesian church (v.1)
  - Our calling and its worth
  - The characteristics of a "worthy" walk
  - How unity is supposed to happen
  - The nature of God
  - The hope of our call
  - These seven "ones" in verses 4-6
  - Baptism. Why is Baptism listed with these other things in verse 5?
  
- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the church at Ephesus then, what do they mean for us now?**

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- Why does every follower of Christ *need* the Church?
- In what ways are you participating with the Church to display the gospel?
- In what ways are you participating with the Church to respond to the gospel?
- In what ways do you need to remember what God has done this week?
- What do you need to repent of this week?
- What in your life do you need to renew this week?

“Our relationship with each other is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful—Christian community is the final apologetic.”

-Francis Schaeffer

## MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Eph 3:20-21

This Week: Eph 4:4-6

## PRAYER FOCUS

**For the Vision and Direction of the church (May):**

Apostles Church wants to be a people who intentionally connect others to Jesus. We will authentically, compassionately and intelligently dialogue with the culture about the Gospel of Jesus.

**In Response to the Text:**

- Asking for humility, gentleness, patience, love and unity personally and as a church
- Thanking God that he is transcendent, existing high above and beyond all things, and yet is immanently present with us – first through the physical presence of Jesus and now by his Spirit
- Asking for moral integrity to walk in a worthy manner
- Asking for healing and full reconciliation for churches that are currently experiencing pain and trauma from severe moral failings
- Celebrating the fact that God is bringing about this greater reality of peace and unity among his people and that one day we will look and behave exactly as we ought
- Praying for God to call more and more people to himself; that the wounded in our city would experience the healing and restoration of Jesus in his church

## FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *Life Together*– Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *The Radical Reformation* – Mark Driscoll
- *The Pursuit of God*– A.W. Tozer
- *To Live in Peace* – Mark Gornik
- *Let Justice Roll Down* – John Perkins
- *Irresistible Revolution* – Shane Claiborne
- *Reconciliation Blues* – Edward Gilbreath

## NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

Ephesians 4:7-16