

Ephesians 4: 1-16



The text – Ephesians 4:1-16

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-16. Why does Paul commence this portion of the letter with the words, “as a prisoner for the Lord, then ...”? What connections are being made with what has come before?
2. Ephesians 4:1-3 recognises that being the church, being the new humanity – living it out! – is not easy. Discuss what you think Paul means by “the bond of peace”. What is the bond of peace?
3. In Ephesians 4:4-6, “one” is used seven times. Paul is writing about the seven-fold unity of the church. What are the seven? How do each of them relate to the others?
4. In 4:7-9 Paul begins exploring the diversity of the church in terms of “gifts”. What is the source of these gifts?
5. Discuss the gifts that Paul writes about in 4:11. Why does he refer to these ones specifically? What is so important about these gifts?
6. What is the purpose of the gifts Christ has given the church in 4:12-16?
7. What are the characteristics of a mature, healthy church? Note that the final word in the Greek text of this passage is “love”.

The Scriptures – Ephesians 4: 1-16 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. In Ephesians 4:8, Paul makes use of a prior OT text found in Psalm 68:18. Read Psalm 68:1-18. What is this psalm about? How has Paul changed the text of Psalm 68:18 as he reuses it here? What do we learn about the way a NT apostle may use the OT in writing NT Scripture?
9. Compare the virtues of the church community in 4:2-3 with those in Colossians 3:12-14. Compare and contrast the two passages.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Ephesians 4: 1-16 as a portion of the Scriptures

12. The church is a community that celebrates its diversity-in-unity. It also celebrates its unity-in-diversity. How is that working out in your church?
13. How has God gifted you? What is your part in the church?
14. How has this study encouraged or challenged you? How can we pray for you as you continue to work out your discipleship in Christ?