



EPHESIANS

MATURITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Ephesians 4:11-16

Week of April 16, 2023

Start at 9:45-9:55

Belong: *Use 5-10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Choose two of the questions below:

- Ask about highs or lows that have happened since the last time you met.
- Or, Give a fun fact about yourself.
- Or, What was the most embarrassing thing that happened to you in middle school?
- Or, What activity helps you relieve stress?

How has God revealed Himself to you this week?

9:55-10:05

Believe: *Use 5-10 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Have a group member read **Ephesians 4:11-16** aloud.

The book of **Ephesians** is filled with statements about how the Church is supposed to live and what we are to pursue as an overflow of the Gospel work that is going on inside of us. Ephesians forces the Church to ask these questions: **Who is God calling us to be? What kind of people is God calling us to be? How is our life together to look?** Through **Ephesians 4**, we have an answer through Jesus: God is calling us to be a people devoted to the Gospel – united in our union with Christ, empowered for ministry by Christ and committed to maturity in Christ.

10:05-10:20

Build: *Use about 15 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

In **vss. 11-14**, who did God give to the Church?

- Why did He give these positions to the church? What is the purpose?
- What does this teach us about the relationship between church leaders (pastors, directors, teachers) and the church?

In **Ephesians 4:11-13**, God shows how He is equipping to spiritual maturity. Now in **4:14-16** Paul gives 3 ways we can measure our spiritual maturity.

- What are the 3 ways? [**4:14**; first part of **Ephesians 4:15** & last part of **Ephesians 4:15**]
- Do most disciples of Christ measure their spiritual maturity with the characteristics?

Consider **Ephesians 4:11**. How does the church benefit from having apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers?

- How would it be harmful to the church if any of these roles were lacking?
- What are signs of immaturity within the church? [**vs. 14**]

10:20–10:35/40

Become: *Use about 15 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?*

In your opinion, do most disciples of Christ measure spiritual maturity by using the characteristics that Paul lists in **Ephesians 4:13–15**?

- Does the church foster a culture of discipleship, equipping and spiritual maturity in the body?
- Does FBC foster a culture of discipleship, equipping and spiritual maturity in the body?

Ephesians 4:16 gives us this awesome picture of a church that is growing in unity & spiritual maturity. To reveal this picture, Paul uses an image of a person's body.

- What are the four characteristics of the human body he uses to describe the church. [joined and held together by every joint, working properly, growing body & builds itself up in love.]
- Which part does FBC have an abundance of...or do well?
- Which part do you think is most lacking at FBC?

Do you believe we all have gift(s) that can be used in the church?

- Are you using your gifts?
- What responsibilities do you have as being a part of FBC?

10:35/ 10:40 – Class ends at 10:45

Begin: *Use the last 5–10 minutes for prayer. It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)*

**Do you see any of God's attributes in this week's passage that struck out to you?
How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?**

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time—sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

Additional Resources:

Blue Letter Bible: Ephesians 4: Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: Ephesians 4: Check out the QR code to learn more.

