

ALL THE SAINTS — SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE — OCTOBER 6
MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH — EPHESIANS 4:1-16

1. Take a few minutes and consider all the “groups” besides the church (in the most general sense) of which you are a member. Now pick an example to share.
 - a. What does “membership” mean in that instance?
 - b. What do you think it would be like if that same concept of membership were applied to the local church? What would be helpful? Harmful?

We’re not going to find the phrase “local church membership” anywhere in the New Testament, but the concept is present throughout—especially in the images used of the church and the imperatives (i.e., commands) given to believers to love and serve one another. We see that in this week’s passage. **READ EPHESIANS 4:1-16. Have someone briefly SUMMARIZE the passage.**

2. Our mission statement at The Journey includes *enjoying grace*. How does Paul talk about *grace* in this passage—especially in verses 7-14? What does it tangibly look like? What is it meant to produce?
3. How and when do you tend to experience God’s grace through specific people? Can you recall a time when you either missed or resisted God’s grace at work in your life through another person?
4. If we’re seeking to walk in a manner that’s worthy of Christ (as Paul begins the passage), what responsibilities and commitments do we have towards one another?
5. What goes through your heart and mind when you think about the idea of “an every member ministry”—of which you are a part?
6. What do you think would change about the way you interact with people in this group and at The Journey if you saw yourself as involved in “the work of ministry” (verse 12)?
7. The phrase “speaking the truth in love” is often taken to mean confronting the sin of another believer in a caring way. That’s certainly a part of it, but there’s more. In Ephesians 1:13, “the word of truth” is the same as “the gospel of your salvation.” So what does it look like to speak the gospel to one another and what does it require of us?
8. How does all this inform and shape your understanding of local church membership?
 - a. What are you sensing the Lord calling you to specifically within The Journey?
 - b. What are you still processing through? How can we help you in that?

PRAY

This passage calls us to some specific commitments, but fundamentally it is calling us to open our eyes to a (potentially) new way of seeing and experiencing the grace of Jesus in our lives through the church. Pray as you’re led.