

# ***Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study***

## **We Have Been Wired to Need Each Other** **Week of March 15, 2020 A.D.**

There is perfect harmony and unity in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. And, on the night before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed for His church saying, “I pray...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.” John 17:20 – 21. God really does command us to be unified. Let’s talk about that in this lesson.

### **Read Ephesians 1:1 – 2**

1. In the Bible, the believers in Christ are often called “saints”. Are you a believer in Christ? Please explain why? Do you see yourself as a saint? Please explain why or why not. Are you faithful to Christ? Again, please explain your answer.

### **Read Ephesians 4:1 – 6**

2. According to verse 1, every Christian has a “calling” from God. With regard to your own calling, please state (a) what it is; (b) the duties and responsibilities of your personal calling; (c) how and when you fulfill that calling; and (d) what you are doing to improve and/or increase your ability to fulfill that calling.
3. Read verse 2. How important is love in the life of a Christian? Please define and discuss how well these character traits describe your behavior in your interactions with other people: (a) humble; (b) gentle; and (c) patient. Are these characteristics optional for the life of a Christian? Please explain your answers.
4. Read verses 3 – 6. In your experience, are Christians more committed to their church denomination or to Christ? In your opinion, does “the unity of the Spirit” exist in (a) the American church; and (b) your church family? If your answer is “no” to either of these questions, does the absence of the unity of the Spirit inhibit either church from fulfilling its mission for Christ? If so, how? If not, why now? Please explain your answers.

### **Read Ephesians 4:7 – 13**

5. In verse 7, the word “grace” means a spiritual gift, ability, and/or responsibility or role. According to verse 7, does every believer have a role in God’s plan for the church? Who assigns each particular role to each believer? Does God expect each believer to fulfill their assigned role by using the abilities which have been given to them by God? Please explain your answers.

### **Read Ephesians 2:8 – 10**

6. Does God have a plan for the daily life of every believer? When did God determine that plan? Do you seek to know and to do God's will and God's plan for your life every day? If so, how and why? If not, why not? Please explain each answer.

### **Read Ephesians 4:11 – 13**

7. Does God expect every Christian to serve other Christians? Why? Does your church encourage your members to serve (i.e. minister to) each other? What is your role as a servant within your church family? Please explain.
8. According to these verses, what is the goal of the church? Can that goal be reached if each believer acts independently of and from the church family? Please explain your answers.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 5:7 – 10**

9. Does God take seriously your disobedience to His plan for your life? Does God want you to please Him? If so, why? If not, why not? Is your service to God the top priority in your life? Do you want to please Him? If so, why? If not, why not? Please explain your answers.

### **Read Ephesians 4:14 – 16**

10. Please explain the meaning of verse 14.
11. According to verses 15 – 16, does God expect every believer to work for and with other believers within their church family? Why or why not?
12. Is your church family living in obedience to the teaching of Ephesians 4:1 – 16? Are you? If either answer is "no", what are you personally willing to do to enable you and/or your church to change that answer to "yes"?

**Consider:** Jesus commands us to be "one body" so that the church may "attain the whole measure of the fullness of Christ". Are you fulfilling your God-assigned function and purpose within your church body? How seriously do you want to please God? "You think about that." Amen.