

DISCUSS

- The first disciples and apostles were very unique from one another in personality, background, area of work, and passion but they were unified in their desire to follow Jesus – take time as a group to share one thing each person feels gifted in or skilled in to appreciate the differences within your Connect Group. Celebrate the diversity in your group!
- Take time to make a connection between how some of these gifts, abilities, or interests can serve the purpose of building others up in faith in Jesus. Go around the circle.
- While few of us go by the five titles or callings or roles Paul says Christ himself gave to the Church, often believers may relate to gifting or interest to one of those roles over the others in terms of how they are wired – which of the 5 do you feel most aligned to if you had to choose one (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher, None)?
- Have you ever felt equipped by a ministry in some way? What made the equipping you experienced effective?

APPLY

- Think of one way you can use your unique gifts to contribute to the building up of your Connect Group. Share.
- Paul talks about speaking the truth in love. What are some ways to do that successfully to put into practice?
- Who is one person you could help build up in Christ this week?

PRAY

- Pray for an increase of unity around Christ and radical love for one another at Wellspring.
- Pray for understanding further one another's gifts.
- Pray for one another's needs.

Devoted

CHURCH REIMAGINED

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Week 4: Devoted to Spiritual Maturity

Key Text: Ephesians 4:11-16

OPEN

This week we come back to Ephesians 4, picking up from where we left off 2 weeks ago on the apostle Paul's words on keeping the unity of the Spirit as a body of believers. Paul now talks about one of the things that flows from unity in the life of a local body of Christ: a devotion to growing spiritual maturity. A church walking in unity will be devoted to maturity, being a people who stand arm in arm, growing together in Jesus Christ. In our passage, Paul talks about unity being expressed in a diversity of gifts and callings within the Body of Christ. Paul says, "Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people" and to build up believers "all until reach unity in the faith." The focus and result of this diversity of gifting is being unified in Christ.

REFLECT

- In verse 11, Paul talks about callings, or roles, in the church that have been given by Christ. List together each one and explain each in your own words.
- In verse 13, what is the stated goal(s) of being built up and how would you define those goals?
- In verse 14, Paul talks about forces and dangers to a believer – what are they?
- From verse 16, break down the parts of the picture Paul gives of the Church and how it is to exist and function.