

One

Faith Body Family

The book of Ephesians was written to the church that was started by Jesus' disciples in Ephesus. When Jesus sent his disciples out to make disciples, the plan was for those disciples to then gather into churches.

- The church was God's plan A - and there is no plan B
- The church reaches, teaches, strengthens, corrects and brings glory to God.

Matthew 16:17-20 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Ephesians 2:15-20 Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,

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The key verse for this series is from Ephesians 4:

Ephesians 4:1–6 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

This week we will focus on Faith, which has two components:

- **Belief;**

- The belief is here - it is the good news of the gospel
 - *Mark 1:14–15 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”*

- **Actions:**

- Behavior before belief in Christ is different than behavior afterwards.
 - *Ephesians 4:1–6 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

As those who believe we are called to:

- Be on mission together - to spread the faith by our words and actions
- Be ONE - hold to the faith which leads to discernment and be unified
- Be a community that acts and responds in different ways than the world.

"In essentials, unity; In non-essentials, liberty; In all things, charity."

**Quote often attributed to Augustine, but may have been written by Rupertus Meldenius.*

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Things to think about:

- After watching the sermon, was there anything in particular that caught your attention?

- Take a look at Ephesians 4:1-6. What does the use of “one” and “all” indicate?

- What are the different “one”s listed? What does it mean for God to be Lord of all?

- How has God become Lord in your life? Do your best to describe the faith that you hold:

- How has following Jesus impacted your attitudes and actions in your daily life?

Additional Resources:

Go to link below to read the Vision, Mission, and Doctrinal Statement of Real Life Ministries

<http://www.reallifeministries.com/who-we-are>

You can read about the founding and history of Real Life Ministries in Church is a Team Sport by Jim Putman

Church is a Team Sport

Ask Jim:

Jim Putman has a new podcast titled 'Ask Jim' - this is a place where he will answer your questions about Real Life Ministries. Click below to listen to the first episode, "Is a Big Church a Bad Thing?" Feel free to submit any questions you might have and Jim may address them in a future podcast!

<http://www.reallifeministries.com/askjim>