"Christ's Vision for Our Church" (Ephesians 4:13-16)

Christ's vision for our church is plainly given to us in Ephesians 4. In any time or place since the first church was established on earth, Jesus desires to see organized local bodies of believers who are faithfully demonstrating and pursuing. . .

Maturity (13)

(See 1 Cor 1:10; Acts 2:42; Phil 3:10; Rom.8:29; Gal 4:19)

Stability (14)

(See 1 Cor 3:1; 2 Cor 11:13-14; 2 Tim 2:15; Jude 4, 11)

Integrity (15)

(See Eph 4:2, 25; 5:2; 6:14; Jn 1:14; 3:21; 8:32; 17:17)

Productivity (16)

(See Eph 2:21; Col 2:19; Rom 14:19; 1 Cor 14:12)

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Small Group/Family Discussion Guide

<u>Icebreaker</u>: Share about a fellow church member who has helped you grow in Christ?

Discussion Questions

- 1. What does a person or a church "look like" that is becoming more like <u>Jesus</u>? (What are some characteristics that will be seen?)
- 2. Why is unity so important in a church family? What is something you can do to help promote unity in our church?
- 3. Why is it so important for each person to know and understand basic Bible doctrines and why they believe them? (Eph 4:14)
- 4. How can we "speak the truth in love" with our family members? ...with our church family? ...with lost people?
- 5. What part do you think God wants YOU to have in helping to build up our church body in love? (Eph 4:16)

Small Group Prayer

Before prayer, each person share one positive trait about the person to their immediate right. Give thanks for that person as you begin your prayer.

Digging Deeper:

Go back through a portion of Eph 4:13-16 each day this week.

- Mon Write out Eph 4:13 <u>in your own words.</u> Consider also 1 Cor 1:10: Rom 8:29 and Gal 4:19
- Tue Write out Eph 4:14 in your own words. Consider also 1 Cor 3:1; 2 Tim 2:15; Gal 1:8 and Eph 6:11
- Wed Write out Eph 4:15 <u>in your own words</u>. Consider also Eph 4:2, 25, 29; Jn 8:32 and 17:17
- Thu Write out Eph.4:16 in your own words. Consider also Eph 2:21; Col 2:19; Rom 14:19 and 1 Cor 14:12
- Fri-Sat Identify a step you can take to grow in each of the 4 areas of Maturity (13), Stability (14), Integrity (15) and Productivity (16).