

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE

EPHESIANS

Living as Followers of Jesus

PART 2: UNITY

By showing both grace and mercy, Jesus created the opportunity for unity between God and humankind. As a reflection of that, our call is to demonstrate unity as well.

WIN

To remember that, as part of God's family, no one is more important than anyone else. Because of that, there should be a strong sense of unity among Jesus followers.

CONNECT

Talk about a meaningful time when you were part of a team and it felt like everyone was united. It could be sports, work, or even your family. How did that team achieve unity?

LEARN

Before watching the video together and discussing the questions provided, we suggest taking a few moments to pray. Here's a simple prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father, thank you that through Christ, we are all seen as equals in your family. Help us to be united. Amen.

After praying, watch the video for Part 2.

APPLY

Discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Read **Ephesians 2:8–9** aloud. If followers of Jesus forget the truth represented in these verses, how could that contribute to a lack of unity? How could remembering the truth represented in these verses contribute to greater unity?
2. Read **Ephesians 4:3–6** aloud. In these verses, Paul summarizes his plea for unity among believers. In your own words, what do you think Paul's main message was?
3. The video talks about a subtle but clear distinction between mercy and grace.
 - **Mercy:** not receiving something bad you deserve.
 - **Grace:** receiving something good you don't deserve.



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Throughout history, the penalty for sin has been some sort of death—an animal sacrifice to pay for the wrongdoing. Keeping that in mind, in what ways did we receive both mercy and grace because of the death and resurrection of Jesus?

4. Who in your life could use your mercy right now? Is there anyone who could benefit by you withholding a consequence they might deserve?
5. Who could use your grace right now? Is there anyone who could use an act of kindness and who has no reason to expect it from you?

PRAY

We suggest ending your group with prayer. One idea is to have each group member think of a way they could take a step toward unity rather than divisiveness and then pray silently for a minute or so. Then the leader can close in prayer.

BEFORE NEXT TIME

Read through the last three chapters of Ephesians before your next session. In addition, try to memorize these passages:

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Ephesians 3:17–18

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

