

## MAIN POINT

*God calls His people to be unified, even in their diversity, using their various gifts and personalities for His purposes.*

## INTRODUCTION

What are some of your favorite things you have in common with those you are close with? What are some of your favorite traits about those close to you that are very different from your own?

Though there is ease and comfort in common traits with another person, some of the best aspects of relationships are the things that make us different. We are often drawn to others based on the things about them that are different from us. Additionally, the best organizations are usually made up of several individuals with various traits and skill sets working together toward a common goal. In Ephesians 4:1-16, Paul continued to encourage his readers to be unified, but he made it clear that this unity included diversity.

## DISCUSSION

> **READ EPHESIANS 4:1-16.**

What is Christ's call in our lives? What specific ways can Christians walk worthy of Christ's call?

What does this passage say about the source of our Christian fellowship and unity?

What is the significance of the word "one" that Paul used repeatedly? How are the seven "ones" related to believers walking worthy of their calling?

Which issues are legitimate barriers to Christian unity, and which are superficial or arbitrary?

Which issues hinder unity in the church? Why is unity worth striving for in the church?

What does it look like for God to impart His grace in different ways to different people?

What's the purpose of diversity within Christian community? Why is this essential to the mission?

How did Paul understand the way people grow in Christ? Can a person grow in Christ without the church? Why or why not?

## APPLICATION

How does this passage affect the way you look at your relationships with fellow believers, specifically those different than you? How can you help others in our church in their devotion to and effectiveness for Christ?