

# God's New People.

## Ephesians studies **New Community.**



**Key verse:** Ephesians 4:16.

From Christ the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.



**Big Idea:** Within the one new community there is a great deal of diversity among the individuals for the purpose of growth in Christ.

### Kick Off

Discuss the unity and diversity of Wikipedia. the online, ever expanding data base of information. What makes it work/not work? How would you improve it?

### STUDY

Read Ephesians 4:1-16.

***Up to this point in the letter Paul has been explaining how God's eternal plan of salvation is being worked out in history in the person and work of Jesus. The entirely new community of God's people is the 'church'. But from chapter 4 onwards Paul moves from what God has done, to what we, who are part of the new community, are to do in order to maintain the unity within the church.***

1. On what five qualities does Christian unity depend on v2?

*Which of the five are you best at?*

2. Christian unity is grounded in and arises from what vv3-6?

*Is the lack of unity within the world wide church a sign of failure or not?*

3. How is the Christian community enriched by the diversity of our gifts vv7-12?

*There is no exhaustive list of gifts God distributes to us recorded in the bible. Discuss what gifts are displayed within your growth group... Consider where you feel gifted and where you see others are gifted. Try and come to some agreement as to who is gifted in what way.*

4. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts v12?

*Have you seen people behaving selfishly with their spiritual gifts? How can we encourage each other to not be selfish with the gifts God has give to us for the building up of his church?*

5. How is Christian unity in the community and Christian maturity connected in vv13-16?

*What would cause Christians to remain as infants?*

## THINK AND APPLY

***Paul's vision for the church presented in these verses is God's new community displaying love, unity, diversity, and increasing maturity for the world to see. It's an ever expanding community that's also infiltrating the world. With this vision in mind reflect on your contribution within ARPC.***

## PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week  
Read Ephesians  
4:17-5:21.**