

Study Guide Questions – 4/10/16
The Power Source (Ephesians 4:1-6)
Pastor Josh Diack

Please don't feel obligated to answer each of these questions. Answer the questions that seem to be most helpful to your group, time permitting.

Read Ephesians 4:1-6 and Pray for the Spirit's illumination and guidance as you meditate on his Word together.

1. Essential nature of belief in this new community.

- a. Why is the "therefore" that Paul speaks of, so important to what follows in chapters 4-6? What is the relationship between doctrine/belief and practice/living.
- b. Discuss the notion of the Christian life being like a mountain that we climb.
- c. Why do you think Paul uses so many vivid terms in this letter i.e. 'riches', 'inheritance', 'glory', 'grace', 'in Christ'?

2. The character of this new community.

- a. Why is character so foundational for the welfare of the church?
- b. Paul lists the following virtues: Humility (lowly-mindedness), Meekness (gentleness), Patience (long-souled), Forbearance (patience with others as being 'a work in progress'), Unity in the Bond of Peace. How do we cultivate these characteristics? In what way can they be counterfeit?
- c. Why is the notion of unity being something we are to "maintain" important, rather than something we are to create?

3. The unity of this new community.

- a. After speaking to the things the church must prize and put into effect, Paul goes back to speaking about the objective realities of the church as it truly exists in heaven. We often tend to think of the church as we perceive it i.e. ministries, sanctuary, people we see. What is the invisible Church? Why is it important to understand and believe?
- b. What vision is Paul casting as to how the church ought to look? (It's been said, people will often not respond to a task, but to a vision).
- c. Paul mentions two triads in vs 4-6. What are they? What is to be the primary focus or substance of the church as a community of believers?