The Ministry of Grace DC

Ephesians 4:1-16 (preached on January 10, 2010)

Note to Discussion Leaders: *Please remember to start by reading the Bible passage as a group. While this is a "sermon discussion" guide, it's vital that our reflections and applications are grounded in scripture. In a similar vein, do your best to help group members to link their discussion points to the scripture text. Don't skip over all the questions that invite the group to observe and interpret specific verses in the passage.*

READ Ephesians 4:1-16 (OT reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34)

REFLECT

1. How does v. 15 describe the grand calling of the church (cf. v. 1)? How do the following verses confirm or fine tune your answer: *Matt. 22:35-40; Rom. 13:9-10; 1 Cor. 13:1-3; Gal. 5:6, 14*?

2. *Sometimes we think we are loving people when we're really not.* How do the qualities of v. 2 challenge this tendency? Think of specific examples. What excuses do you tend to make when you fail to love in this way (e.g., when impatient, saying, "I just want excellence!")?

3. Consider the following statement drawn from vv. 4-6: *"The oneness of God is the foundation of the oneness of humanity."* What does this mean (see also 2:13-19)? What implications does this have for us as a community?

4. How do vv. 11-13 convey to us that *everybody matters and everybody is essential* in the community of Christ? What then is the role of leaders (v. 12)? Is this different from your expectations or past experiences of religious communities?

5. How is the community goal of love (as opposed to, say, achievement) the foundation of this every-member ministry?

6. Do you believe that other people are essential to your calling?

7. In your own words, how do these various themes shape the way we view Grace DC's Ministry Teams and Education Ministry?