

The Ministry of Grace DC, Part II

Ephesians 4:1-16 (preached on January 17, 2010)

Grace DC Announcements

- **CG New Leader Training (Sat, Feb 20, 9:30am-3:30pm @ Calvary Baptist)** – We'll be going on the purpose and vision of our Community Groups and start some leadership skills training, too. Required for all prospective CG leaders. Be sure to send someone from your CG if your group is planting a new group or anticipates needing a new leader (e.g., one of your current leaders are departing or she's coming up on her "term limit"). (Note: *The church plant's small group leaders will be going through a separate training this spring.*) Sign up on the website or contact Johanna Montague (johanna@gracedc.net).
- **Church Plant Phase 2 Kick-off & Vision Night (THIS FRI, Jan 18, 7:30-9pm @ La Casa Community Center in Mt. Pleasant - 3166 Mt. Pleasant St NW 20010).** An important evening conversation about the church plant's vision and plans as we kick of the next phase of our congregation's development! Also a great way to get to know others who will be a part of this new community. Agenda: Duke's presentation, Q&A, group brainstorm, prayer. *All who are looking into joining the church plant should attend!* To RSVP or ask questions, email Duke at gracedcCHURCHPLANT@gmail.com.

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: Psalm 95:1-7a)

REFLECT

1. *Look over the passage and notice what it says about love.* How does this passage point us to the significance of love in the Christian community? When was the last time that love *changed* you — i.e., you stopped doing something or started doing something because of love?
2. Read 1 John 4:19 and consider the following statement: "You will not change apart from knowing the love of God in Jesus." What do you think?
3. How does this passage instruct us to be a place where everybody matters and everybody is essential (see vv. 2-3, 7, 15-16)? Have you experienced this at Grace DC and in your CG? Please be honest!
4. Based on verses 11-16, how would you describe the proper relationship between our beliefs ("truth," "doctrine") and "love"? What tends to happen when we separate truth from love or act as if our beliefs don't impact our relationships?
5. What do you think of the idea that it's impossible to grow spiritually by yourself and apart from community (vv. 14-16)? Consider the following statement: "*If you're flying solo, you're actually breaking all the commandments in the Bible*" (cf. Rom. 13:9-10; Gal. 5:14).

