**The Gospel-Tension that Builds Unity**

**10/28 Discussion Questions**

Ephesians 4:1-16

***Review***Introduction – The Dual-Commitment that Makes the EFCA Different - we are deeply rooted in essential doctrines while providing freedom in secondary matters. “Unity in the essentials; dialogue in our differences.”

1. The Call of Unity: Walk in a Manner Worthy of Your Calling (vv. 1-3)
2. The Reality of Unity: One Body and One Spirit (v. 4)
3. The Foundation of Unity: One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism (vv. 5-6)
4. The Means of Unity: Diverse Body, Diverse Gifts (vv. 7-12)
5. The Goal of Unity: Maturity in Christ (v. 13)
6. The Anchor of Unity: Doctrinal Grounding (vv. 14-15)
7. The Result of Unity: The Body Building Itself Up in Love (v. 16)

***Connect***

1. Before coming to Oakwood what did you know about the EFCA?
2. What do you most appreciate about the EFCA? What questions do you have?

***Read Ephesians 4:1-16***

***Discuss***

1. How does Paul call believers and churches to unity? Why must we “maintain the unity of the Spirit”? (v. 1-3)
2. How does the unity of the Godhead provide a model and motivation for our unity (v. 4-6; John 17:11,21)?
3. How does the diversity of gifting in the body strengthen our unity (v. 7-12)?
4. How does our unity as a church reflect our maturity in Christ (v. 13-16)?

***Apply***

1. What do you consider “essential doctrines” on which all believers must be unified? What are some examples of “secondary matters” on which we should provide freedom? Why is this distinction sometimes hard to make?
2. How can you grow in this area? How can you do better at appreciating other believers who have views different from yours?

***Pray***

1. How can we pray for you this week?