**Growing Together (2/25/24)**

**Discussion Questions**

**Summary:** As those who have experienced the infinite love of the Lord Jesus (Eph. 3:15-21) we must live in line with His calling. The first application of the gospel to life is that we would “walk worthy” by protecting the unity of the church. This inspiring passage shows us four resources for connection and growth: 1) the humble identity of a servant; 2) the gentle attitude of a child; 3) the unified mindset of a family and; 4) the grace-empowered interdependence of a body. Come be encouraged with how to “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

*“Rather, speaking the truth in love we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”* Eph. 4:15-16

**Resources for Connection and Growth:**

1. The Identity of a Servant (Php. 1:1)
   * Humbly Grateful for the call of Christ (v. 1)
2. The Attitude of a Child (Lk. 18:17)
   * Patiently Gentle as those loved by Jesus (v. 2)
3. The Mindset of a Family (Php. 4:2-3)
   * Peacefully United in the One Body of Christ (v. 3-6)
4. The Interdependence of a Body (1 Cor. 12:12)
   * Sharing Grace to help each other grow (v. 7-16)

“God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;

He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill;

He treasures up his bright designs, and works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints fresh courage take, the clouds ye so much dread

Are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.”

* William Cowper, *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*

**Get Started:**

1. What was the best thing about the family you grew up in?
2. How did your childhood experiences prepare you to know God as your Father and the church as a family?

**Dig In:** Read Ephesians 4:1-7

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. Why is unity in the church so important to the Lord?
3. How would Oakwood be different if we all fully obeyed verses 2-3? How would our group be different?
4. Read Ephesians 4:7-12. What was the purpose for which Jesus gave spiritual gifts to His body? (Notice especially the phrase “to fill all things” in v. 10 - what does that mean and how is Jesus doing just that?)
5. According to v. 12 what is the main job of church leaders?

**Move Forward:**

1. What does it look like for you to “walk worthy of your call” this week?
2. Whom can you encourage and build up this week? How?
3. Take some time to pray for one another.