

IMMEASURABLY MORE ..

[Part 2]

learning from the letter to the Ephesians

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! [Eph.3.20f]

The letter to the Ephesians sets out for us ‘the unsearchable riches of Christ’ (Eph.3.8), and assures us that God is ‘able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine’ (Eph.3.20): this set of studies is intended to help us all enter into and enjoy that ‘immeasurably more’.

You can find the background to this series [here](#).

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No pressure!

There are 7 [sets of] questions in each study to provide the option, which some find useful, of the material being used as a daily study.

Priorities!

You’ll know your own group, so use what you’ll find most helpful. As always there will be benefit in looking at all the questions, but perhaps the most important ones for us all to be looking at will be **2, 3, & 5**.

Prayer!

Do try also to make a point in your Community Group of leaving time for praying together!

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6. Ephesians 4.1-16 [w/b Sunday 28th May]

“make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit”

With chapter 4 Paul moves on from explaining the great truths of the gospel to applying those truths to the lives of Christ's people. The exhortations he addresses to his readers need to be seen in that light. They're not the means by which they earn the favour of God: they're the way in which, most appropriately, that grace of God will find expression in their lives. 'This is who you are now,' he's said: 'now *be* who you are!'

His starting point in the section we look at this week goes right to the heart of God's great plan in Christ, and addresses straight away the primary challenge of the gospel: how do people, who in all sorts of ways are so different, learn to live as one?

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1. **Read Eph.4.1-16.** Paul's theme in these verses is the *unity* of God's people. Jew and Gentile have been made one (Eph.2.14): but that's easier expounded than experienced!

Unity isn't quite the same as uniformity: so what does this unity look like which Paul is speaking about here?

Why does the *unity* of God's people matter so much?

2. Read Ephesians 4.1-3. Unity clearly doesn't just happen! It requires *effort* on our part.

How will each of the four exhortations in v.2 find expression in the way we relate to one another within the life of the fellowship?

What does Paul mean, do you think, by reference to 'the bond of peace'?

3. Read Ephesians 4.4-6. In any local fellowship there will be a range of very different individuals. Paul here sets out precisely what comprises our 'unity' as God's people.

What are the seven components of that unity to which Paul alludes?

Why does each of these matter?

4. Read Ephesians 4.7-10. Having set out the heart of the 'oneness' God's people enjoy, Paul goes on now to recognize the necessary and inevitable diversity there is in any fellowship.

What is meant by the 'grace' which has been given 'to each one of us'?

How does Christ's giving 'gifts' to His people further His purpose?

5. Read Ephesians 4.11-13. This is not an exhaustive list of the 'gifts' Christ gives His church (see 1 Cor.12 and Rom.12).

What are the primary purposes Paul envisaged in the exercise of the gifts he mentions here?

How are these purposes realized in the life of a local fellowship?

What sort of pastoring and teaching will best equip you for 'works of service' (ministry)?

6. Read Ephesians 4.14. Paul recognizes that the church is always at best no more than a work in progress: he stresses the importance, however, of our not remaining 'infants' in the faith.

What does Paul mean by our no longer being 'infants'?

Why does it matter that God's people are well grounded in Scripture?

What tends to happen when they are not?

7. Read Ephesians 4.15-16. Growth is an integral feature of the new life in Christ God has given us.

From what Paul says here, how does he envisage this growth taking place?

In what ways have you been conscious of growth in your own life over the past year or so?

Do you think that the sort of growth Paul alludes to here is evident in our life as a fellowship at Gilcomston?