

Belmont Chapel Home Group Notes Autumn Term 2019

A new confidence: Ephesians 4:1-16

Notes for w/b 3rd November 2019

The **Study Leaders' Own Bible Study** for this session is on **Sunday 27th October at 6.45pm**. You are warmly encouraged to attend. SLOBs is a great chance to prepare together, to discuss possible approaches to the questions, anticipate any challenging aspects of the passage, and to pray for the session with others who'll also be leading their groups. It will also be very helpful to listen to Jonny Baker's sermon from **Sunday morning 20th October**.

These notes are a supplement to the study guide 'Building a Community in Christ' provided to each home group.

Way In

How do you think unity is different from uniformity?

Why is unity valuable? Are there examples in your experience of the impact of unity?

For an open-ended study

Read Ephesians 4:1-16, twice. On the second reading, write down words, phrases or questions which stand out for you. Share these together and see if you can together work out a response based on the passage, and other bible knowledge available in the group. As you summarise, consider what these insights mean for each one in the group on their frontlines over the next few days & weeks.

To help with context, you may find it helpful to watch the Bible Project video on Ephesians, or review the 'flow chart' below.

For more structure...

I. Individual or Team (vv1 - 6)

What does Paul urge and instruct the people of God to do? (v1) And how should they go about that? (v2&3). Describe the sort of actions, words these characteristics would look like in our church?

What is the basis of our unity? How does the unity of the followers of Christ relate the unity of God? (Read John 17:20-24 to see what Jesus prayed for in this respect)

Are there examples in our lives where unity has been / is lacking? What has been the impact? What action could we take to correct this?

II. Spectator or Player (vv7 – 13)

What is the purpose of spiritual gifts within the body life of the church?

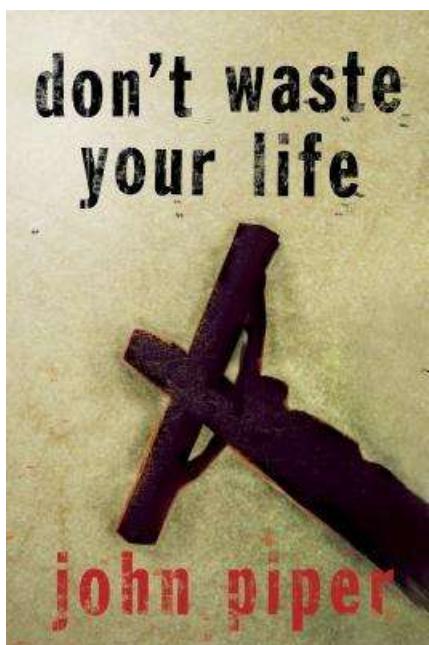
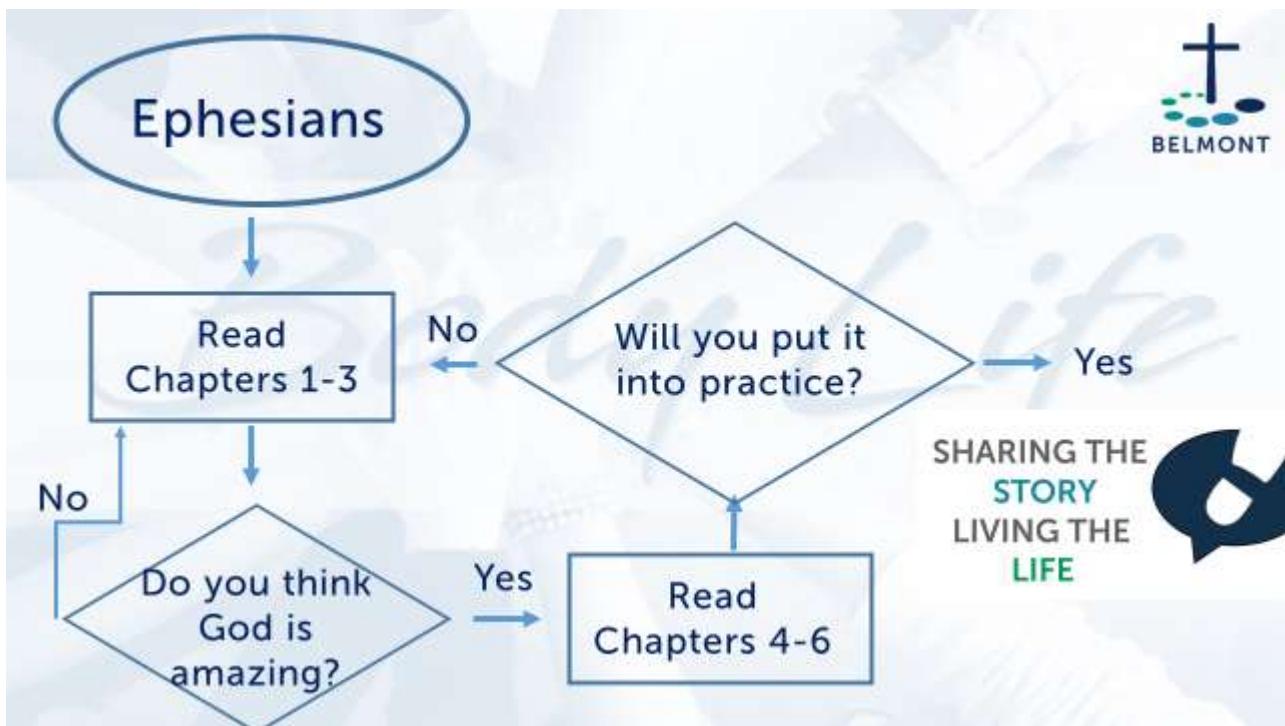
Take a look at the John Piper quote overleaf. Do we have an equivalent of 'shells'? What could we do differently to play our part in this community of Christ? Are there opportunities we can be taking? Are there gifts we can encourage in each other? What works of service could our group do to witness to the love and unity of God?

III. Growing in Christ (vv14 – 16)

Paul urges us to 'live a life worthy of [our] calling'. What things does he say hinder us fulfilling that? And what helps? In what ways could our home group be part of that growing and strengthening?

This Week

What will you do to actively promote unity, and strengthen others in the community of Christ?



John Piper writes, "I will tell you what a tragedy is. I will show you how to waste your life. Consider this story from the February 1998 Reader's Digest: A couple 'took early retirement from their jobs in the Northeast five years ago when he was 59 and she was 51. Now they live in Punta Gorda, Florida, where they cruise on their 30-foot trawler, play softball and collect shells. . . .' Picture them before Christ at the great day of judgment: 'Look, Lord. See my shells.' That is a tragedy."

"God created us to live with a single passion to joyfully display his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life. The wasted life is the life without this passion. God calls us to pray and think and dream and plan and work not to be made much of, but to make much of him in every part of our lives."

Most people slip by in life without a passion for God, spending their lives on trivial diversions, living for comfort and pleasure, and perhaps trying to avoid sin. This book will warn you not to get caught up in a life that counts for nothing. It will challenge you to live and die boasting in the cross of Christ and making the glory of God your singular passion. If you believe that to live is Christ and to die is gain, read this book, learn to live for Christ, and don't waste your life!

'Don't Waste Your Life' by John Piper, pub IVP.