

# “God’s Purpose for Community”

Ephesians 4:1-7, 13-16  
New Hope Community Church  
January 27th, 2019

*God’s purpose is to exalt His Son, Jesus, and to prepare for Him a holy bride from every people group of the earth.*

## A. God Has Laid A Remarkable Foundation for Community (1-6)

1. Each of us have been personally **called** into this community
2. Each of us has been united together thru **unfailing** unity
  - Each foundational stone of unity **proceeds** from God
  - The unity that God designs prepares us to **work** together to participate in God’s purpose
3. Each of us is responsible to **preserve** unity in His community

## B. God Has Created A Necessary Purpose for Community (7,13)

1. He equipped each member with special **grace gifts**
2. He commanded that they be used to **serve** one another in love
3. He desires that we effect one another to **reflect** Jesus (13)

► **QUESTION:** List specific ways the gifts of Christ expressed thru His people have helped you become more like Jesus?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_

## C. God Has Planned for Personal and Corporate Maturity (14-16)

1. Babies are adorable, **adult** babies are not!
  - Community affects my **maturing** process
  - Effective community hinges upon **every** member
2. Churches are special, **stagnant** churches are not!

**Action Steps** This is for EACH of us who belong to Jesus —

- (1) Pursue corporate maturity: Become committed to a **community**
- (2) Prioritize relationships: Find points of **connection**
- (3) Begin to contribute: Find avenues of **service**
- (4) Guard unity: Keep relationships **right**

# Life Group Meeting

Ephesians 4:1-16

## QUESTIONS

- 1) Read Ephesians 4:1-16
- 2) Was there any particular truth from this week’s message that stuck with you?
- 3) Is there anything about God’s purpose as stated at the top of our notes that truly motivates or excites you on a day to day basis?
- 4) What do you think “the calling” is that Paul says we are “to walk in a manner worthy of” in verse one?
- 5) Identify some very practical keys to preserve unity in the church.
- 6) Share one way that the gifts of Christ expressed thru His people have helped you become more like Jesus?
- 7) What keeps a church from becoming stagnant?
- 8) Comment on the statement — “Effective community hinges upon every member.” Agree? Disagree? Why, or why not?
- 9) Pray together for New Hope, that we would be all that God wants us to be through Christ Jesus!