

Passage Study Guide:

1. Read 4:1–6

- a ‘Unity and purity are two fundamental features of a life worthy of the church’s divine calling’. How does your experience of the church appear in the light of this statement? Why do you think this is?
- b Commenting on Christian unity, the apostle starts with moral qualities; which ones does he select and why? To what extent are your relationships with fellow Christians characterized by these?
- c ‘Christian unity arises from the unity of our God’. Can you explain how this is so?

2. Read 4:7–12

- a Paul gives a list of some of the spiritual gifts given by Christ to his church. What are they, and to what extent do they operate in today’s church?
- b ‘Nothing is more necessary for the building up of God’s church in every age than an ample supply of ...’. How would you complete this sentence?
- d How do these verses support the vision of an ‘every-member ministry’? To what extent is the description ‘every-member ministry’ true to your church?

3 Read 4:13–16

- a What do these verses teach about the characteristics of 1) maturity and 2) immaturity? How can we become more mature?
- b ‘Truth becomes hard if it is not softened by love; love becomes soft if it is not strengthened by truth’ (John Stott). Can you think of situations where the balance of truth and love has been lost? How can they be held together?

Conclude your study of this passage by praying for the church—both locally and more widely—in the light of this passage.

