FEBRUARY 10, 2019 – MEMBERSHIP IN ACTION

During the months of January and February we will looking at what the Bible says about the Church, and what it means to be the church together at West Park. The Church is the dearest place on earth to God, and we hope your love for the church will grow as we learn how to be a Church by the Book.

READ
Ephesians 4:1-16

EXAMINE
• Paul presents two marks of the church in Ephesians 4 - Unity (4:1-6) and yet Diversity(4:7-11). What is the source of the church’s unity, and what qualities mark true Spirit-led unity? How does Paul account for the diversity within each church?
• The Risen and Reigning Christ gives gifts to His church. What gifts does He give, and what are those gifts supposed to do for the church (4:11-12)?
• How does Paul describe the ministry objectives of every member in 4:13-14?
  – Positive objectives (13):
  – Negative objectives (14):
• What responsibility does each member of the church body have according to verse 15? What might that look like in action? And what is the goal of that ministry responsibility (4:16)?

APPLY
• What are some effective ways church leadership might focus on to equip church members? How have you been blessed by a church leader with effective equipping?
• What “deceitful schemes” (14) might our church be particularly vulnerable to? What should church members do to counter such schemes? What should church leaders do?
• When have you experienced the ministry of someone speaking the “truth in love” to you? What was the situation and how were you helped?

PRAY
Lord Jesus, thank you for the unity and the diverse gifts you’ve given us in the church. Help those of us who are leaders with wisdom and discernment about the time you’ve given us so we might equip your Body as you see fit. Help us all as members so we might all grow in maturity, into the very image of you our Lord. Help us to all to do our part by speaking the truth in love for the benefit of our brothers and sisters, your beloved Bride. Amen.