

BELONG SERIES – PART 4: IN COMMUNITY

Ephesians 1:1-13; 3:10; 4:1-16

Acts 2:44-47

Share

1. If someone asked you to describe the St Mark's community, what would you say?

Observe and reflect

2. What do you notice about the way Ephesians 1:4 to 5 describes God's initiative in forming his people, and how does this shape your view of the church?
3. In Ephesians 1:13, what does it mean to be sealed with the Spirit, and how does this relate to belonging to God's people?
4. Read Ephesians 3:10. What do you think Paul means when he says God's wisdom is shown through the church, and who is watching?
5. How do the two misunderstandings of church attendance ('you need to go to church to be saved' and 'attending church is healthy but not essential') affect Christian community? Which do you drift towards?
6. In Ephesians 4:1 to 3, which qualities are named, and why do you think these qualities are needed for community life?
7. How does Ephesians 4:3 describe the unity of the Spirit, and what is the difference between creating unity and keeping unity?
8. Compare Acts 2:44 to 47 with later scenes in Acts where problems arise. What does this mix of beauty and difficulty teach us about real community?
9. In Ephesians 4:11 to 13, what is the purpose of teachers and leaders, and how does this shape your view of ministry in the church?
10. In Ephesians 4:14 to 16, what does it look like to grow into maturity as a community, and what part does speaking the truth in love play?

Next Steps

“Everyone says they want community and friendship. But mention accountability or commitment to people, and they run the other way.” - Tim Keller

11. What practical commitments help a local church live out the shared identity it already has in Christ, and which of these commitments do you find hardest? How might your 'diary' commitments change in 2026?