



Strengthen Your Core

Living Our Gospel Identity

Context

Core strength comes from working out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). It means allowing the gospel to influence *every* area of our lives and to change those areas on a deeper and deeper level. The gospel must move from merely changing how we behave to shaping our motives, desires, and loves. So Christians answer the question “Who am I?” in a very distinct way. They know their identity is “in Christ.” God *gives* each Christian a new identity of being connected to Christ.

Study Questions:

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

- What are those in church leadership called to do?
- What is God’s goal for the church?
- How do mature churches handle false teaching?
- How does the church “grow up” in Christ?
- **Read Ephesians 4:21-24.** When Paul talks about speaking the “truth,” what truth does he have in mind?

Application Questions:

- How can every believer equip others for the work of ministry?
- Why is having our identity grounded in the gospel essential for Christian growth?
- Notice all the “we” language throughout the passage. Why is community so important for growing up in Christ?
- Who are some mature Christians you have looked up to in the past? What parts of their life do you want to emulate in your own life?
- How can we encourage one another in this Group to have a strong “core” this year?

We encourage all Groups to read along in the book, *Strengthen Your Core*. Download the e-book on the church website. The reading for this week would cover the Foreword and Introduction.