**Ephesians 4:1-16 – God’s heart and vision for us, his church**

**NMBC 7.7.24.**

**Key ideas:**

* God gives his Church its Identity, Calling, Gifting and Mission
* Some aspects of Identity, Calling, Gifting and Mission are universal to all churches throughout the ages, but some are specific to NMBC.
* Our present Identity, Calling, Gifting and Mission are rooted in our history, but they are also dynamic, and providing they remain Christ-focused and Spirit led, they are likely to change and develop as we look towards the future.
* Ultimately, we are all called to minister to one another, to serve and to use our different gifts to build up the church and to help it move towards complete unity and maturity in Christ.

**Key verse(s) – Ephesians 4:11-13…**

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

**Important words and phrases**

* Identity
* Calling
* Gifting
* Mission
* Ministry
* Encouragement
* Discipleship
* Prayer
* Welcome
* Worship
* Intercultural
* Multigenerational

**PTO**

**Questions for further reflection/discussion:**

1. Which elements of the passage Ephesians 4:1-16 would you highlight as being of particular importance for us to focus on as a church?
2. Do you have a clear sense of your own Identity, Calling, Gifting and Mission and how these things might feed in to supporting our Identity, Calling, Gifting and Mission as a church?
3. Which are the important aspects of Christ-like identity?
4. To what extent is the Church (“capital C”) fulfilling its calling in the world today? As God’s people, what are we doing well? What could we do better?
5. What are your own particular spiritual gifts? Are you using them to build up the church and to serve God’s Kingdom mission?
6. Are there spiritual gifts that you desire more of? How might you obtain these?
7. What are the hallmarks of Christian maturity?
8. Should a church’s mission be church-focused, community-focused or world-focused?
9. “*Always keep the big picture in mind – you are greatly loved by Jesus and your job is to love Him and others in return. The rest is detail.*” Is this quotation from Bear Grylls helpful, or an over-simplification?
10. Did any of the three prophetic images highlighted speak to you in particular?
11. Are there other words/pictures/messages that we have amongst us that you believe could be of prophetic significance? If so, please do share them with the church leadership…
12. What is your part to play in what God wants to do amongst us moving forwards?

**Please pray into these things…**