

**Open Your Heart and Mind**

- School has started, what was your favorite subject? Favorite teacher?

**Finding God in His Word** (Read Ephesians 4:1-6)

- What are things that lead to disunity in the church? Which is easier to cultivate, unity or disunity? Why?
- Why is unity within the body of Christ essential for effective gospel ministry?
- Define the difference between unity and uniformity. Why is the distinction important?
- Read Ephesians 1:3-14, 2:1-22; 3:1-13. List the things Paul gives that are the spiritual blessings we have received in Christ. Count how many times Paul uses the phrase “in Christ” in this section. Why do you think Paul continues to emphasize that these blessings are in Christ?
- How do these blessings help to unite the body of Christ? What is the link between salvation and unity in the body of Christ? How is the church an essential characteristic of the unity Jesus is building in His people?
- Why does theology (Ephesians 1-3) precede practice (Ephesians 1-4)? Why do we tend to reverse this order?
- Read Ephesians 4:1-3 again. Discuss what you believe it means to “... *walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.*” Why do you think Paul adds the modifier worthy to this walk we are to pursue as Christians?
- We are to walk in humility, gentleness, patience, and in a spirit of putting up with one another in love. Think of our study in the Sermon on the Mount. What does Jesus teach us about these graces as it pertains to being His disciples in his kingdom?
- Which of these four characteristics do you find most challenging to live out?
- How does walking worthy of our calling, worthy of the gospel help us to maintain the unity of the Spirit? Why is maintaining the unity of the Spirit a needed priority among God’s people? What do you think this looks like?
- Why is peace the bond that holds this unity together? Does this mean there cannot be conflict? How does healthy conflict strengthen this bond?

**Live the Christ Life**

1. In what practical ways can you begin or continue to live in unity with the body of Christ as RMBC?
2. As this will be a theme for our ministry year, where do you need to put some effort in the four areas Paul says we need to work to walk worthy of the gospel?