

Gawler Baptist Church

A Sent People

Study 9 – Sent as a Community of the Good News

John 13:34-35; Eph 4:17-32



Begin by sharing with one another what comes to your mind as you think about the church being sent as a community of the good news of Jesus.

Read the John passage.

- How is love for one another to be expressed within the church community?
- What is to characterise that love?
- Verse 35 is crucial for understanding how the church is the community of good news. What does it tell you about the church and mission?

Read the Ephesians passage. If you have the time it may be helpful to read the whole of chapter 4 so that you are able to get a better idea of the wider context.

- If you were to pick one verse out of the whole of chapter 4 that, for you, summed up the point of the chapter, what would that verse be and why?
- Verse 17 begins with 'so I tell you this.' What is the relationship between this section and the previous?
- What are the things that characterise the Gentiles [17-19]? Who are the equivalent of the Gentiles today and do the same things still apply?
- How does this compare with followers of Jesus [20-24]? How much do you feel what these verses describe how it is for you?

Discuss this quote: *The most creative social strategy we have to offer is the church. Here we show the world a manner of life the world can never achieve through social coercion or governmental action. We serve the world by showing it something that it is not, namely, a place where God is forming a family out of strangers.* [S. Hauerwas, *Resident Aliens*, 83]

Verses 25-32 describe what it means for the church, who have been made new in the attitude of their minds, to live as children of light. They are the characteristics of a community of the good news.

Look through each of the characteristics and discuss how they work out in our own church. Are there things we do well? Not well? Things that we need to put in place or do better in? Give examples if you can.

What do you learn about the church and yourself as you go through the list?