



SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH

EPHESIANS

SESSION 11: THE FULLNESS OF GOD IN OUR LIVES

Ephesians 3:20-21 • February 27, 2018

"Exploring the new life and new society God has created through Jesus"

By Rev. Rick Dietzman, Minister of Adult Discipleship

One of the most exciting things about becoming a Christian is that we have joined God's family. This new family includes everyone who believes in Jesus Christ. God calls this spiritual family "The Body of Christ"...the Church, of which Christ is the head.

God wants us to help each other to be "...rooted and grounded in love and have power together...to know his love that surpasses knowledge...that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." This means that we have a great contribution to make to each other.

That is why the Bible encourages us to spend time together..to be in fellowship with each other. There are several specific reasons why we should come together and share our lives with each other.

Other Christians are a great source of support and counsel. It's a challenge to live for Christ in, at times, a very unchristian world. Living out what God tells us in the Bible is not always easy. Often we need help, encouragement and counsel from others. The "best" way for us to seek out for this type of support is other Christians who are "working out their faith with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:13).

"From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another." John 1:16

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority." Colossians 2:9-10

1. What does it mean to you to have God's fullness? _____

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen." - Ephesians 3:20-21

2. In Ephesians, Paul is continually attempting to raise the believers expectations of God. Promising an amazing inheritance, power, love, fullness etc. Do you really believe that God can do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine?" _____

• Share about a time in your life when God poured out his abundance. _____

3. In verse 21, Paul desires that the church and Jesus Christ be magnified more and more. To what extent has Paul's prayer been answered in your life and in the life of our church?

4. Do you approach your spiritual life and your relationship with God primarily as an individual pursuit or as something you do in community with other believers? _____

• Why? _____

5. This week, what specific thing can you do to promote the unity of the church? Do you need to apologize to someone, forgive someone, encourage someone, serve someone, etc?

God wants us to make sure that we are drawing close to others who have a "heart for God." That is why in Hebrews 10:24-25, Paul tells us to reflect on "how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds." Christ has given us Christian fellowship to build us up and help us live as He desires.

God also wants us to come together with other Christians so that if we fall, we will have a friend who will help us. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 warns us about not having close Christian friends 'Woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift them up.' When we interact on his plane, others see our "love for one another" (John 13:34-35) and are drawn to Christ and the Church. We live in a world that is desperate for love...but they continue to look for it in the wrong places. The best place to look for love is the Church. Because together we share the love of Christ that is "deeper, wider, higher and longer" than any challenge or problem we face!