

# Ephesians

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY WORKBOOK (WEB\* Version)

\*World English Bible

Name:			

Date Started:\_\_\_\_\_

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." -- Acts 2:42-47

Welcome to an inductive Bible study experience. Over the next several weeks, we will be getting together to discuss this book of the Bible. Each week, you will need to spend time prayerfully reading, meditating on, and marking the passage under consideration. It's essential to your understanding of the scritpure and to the value of the group that you be actively engaging with the scripture and are prepared to share your insights and questions each week.

For this study, we will primarily use only the actual scripture. Except for the brief introductory section S

below, avoid using other resources such as commentaries, study Bibles, etc. This is your opportunity, as the Holy Spirit guides you, to gain a clear and personal understanding of God's word.
BEFORE YOU START YOUR STUDY
For these four questions, you may use other sources. Jot down your answers and be prepared to share them at the first gathering.
1. Who wrote this book and to whom was it written?
2. Why was this book written?
3. What can we discover as we read this book?
4. Where did all of the activity in the book take place?
EVERY TIME YOU DO YOUR STUDY

- 1. Thank God that He got you together.
- 2. Study the book together and share insights from the study.
- 3. Ask what part of Say, Do, Think, Believe the Spirit of God is telling you to do.
- 4. Pray for each other to be strenghtened by God to do what He convicted you to do.
- 5. Pray, thanking God for what He's done and wil do.

# Inductive Bible Study

God's eternal, inerrant Word is your guidebook for all of life, and inductive study gives you the key to understanding that guide. Inductive study, a method that brings you directly to the Word of God apart from another's understanding or interpretation of the text, involves three skills: **observation**, **interpretation**, and **application**.

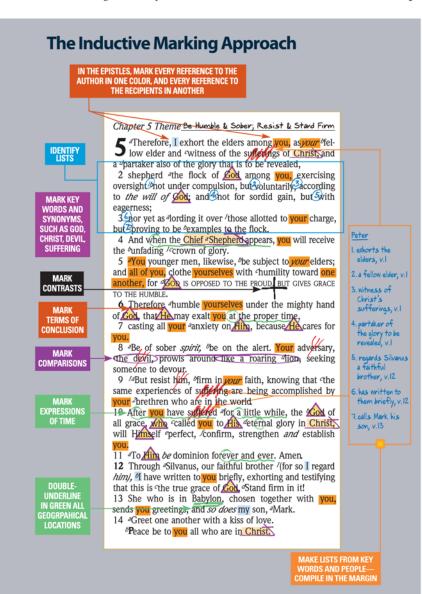
### OBSERVATION discover what it says

#### Begin with Prayer

Prayer is often the missing element in Bible study. You are about to learn the most effective method of Bible study there is. Yet apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, that's all it will be—a method.

#### Ask the "5 W's and an H"

As you study any passage of Scripture, train yourself to constantly ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? These questions are the building blocks of precise observation, which is essential for accurate interpretation.



Mark key words and phrases (see figure at left)
A key word is one that is essential to the text.
Key words and phrases are repeated in order to convey the author's point or purpose for writing. For example, notice that some form of the word suffering is used three times in 1 Peter 5. Key words can be marked using symbols, colors, or a combination of the two.

#### Make lists

Making lists can be one of the most enlightening things you do as you study. Lists reveal truths and highlight important concepts. 1 Peter 5:2,3, for example, contains a simple list regarding the role of the elder, shown by numbering the items in the text. It is also helpful to make a list of what you learn about each key word or person you mark.

#### Watch for contrasts and comparisons

Contrasts and comparisons use highly descriptive language to make it easier to remember what you've learned. For example, Peter compares the devil to a roaring lion in verse 8. Peter also contrasts God's attitude toward the proud and the humble.

#### Note expressions of time

The relationship of events in time often sheds light on the true meaning of the text. Marking them will help you see the sequence or timing of events and lead to accurate interpretation of Scripture.

#### Geographic Locations

Often it's helpful to mark geographical locations, which tell you where an event takes place.

#### Mark terms of conclusion

Words such as "therefore," "thus," and "for this reason" indicate that a conclusion or summary is being made. You may want to underline them in the text.

#### Identify chapter themes

The theme of a chapter will center on the main person, event, teaching, or subject of that section of Scripture. Themes are often revealed by reviewing the key words and lists you developed. Try to express the theme as briefly as possible, using words found in the text.

## INTERPRETATION discover mat it means

While **observation** leads to an accurate understanding of what the Word of God *says*, **interpretation** goes a step further and helps you understand what it *means*. As you seek to interpret the Bible accurately, the following guidelines will be helpful:

Remember that context rules.

If you lay the solid foundation of observation, you will be prepared to consider each verse in the light of the surrounding verses, the book in which it is found, and the entire Word of God. As you study, ask yourself: Is my interpretation of this passage of Scripture consistent with the theme, purpose, and structure of the book in which it is found? Is it consistent with other Scripture about the same subject? Am I considering the historic and cultural context? Never take a Scripture out of its context to make it say what you want it to say. Discover what the author is

saying; don't add to his meaning.

- Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God.

  When you know God's Word thoroughly, you will not accept a teaching simply because someone has used one or two isolated verses to support it. You will be able to discern whether a teaching is biblical or not. Saturate yourself in the Word of God; it is your safeguard against wrong doctrine.
- Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture.

  Remember, all Scripture is inspired by God. Therefore, Scripture will never contradict itself. Sometimes, however, you may find it difficult to reconcile two seemingly contradictory truths taught in Scripture, such as the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man. Don't take a teaching to an extreme that God doesn't. Simply humble your heart in faith and believe what God says, even if you can't fully understand or reconcile it at the moment.
- **Don't base your convictions on an obscure passage of Scripture.**An obscure passage is one in which the meaning is unclear or not easily understood. Because these passages are difficult to understand even when proper principles of interpretation are used, they should not be used as a basis for establishing doctrine.
- Interpret Scripture literally.

  God spoke to us that we might know truth. Therefore, take the Word of God at face value—in its natural, normal sense. Look first for the clear teaching of Scripture, not a hidden meaning. Understand and recognize figures of speech and interpret them accordingly.

Consider what is being said in the light of its literary style. For example, you will find more similes and metaphors in poetical and prophetic literature than in historical or biographical books. Interpret portions of Scripture according to their literary style.

Some literary styles in the Bible are: Historical—Acts, Exodus; Prophetic—Revelation, Isaiah; Biographical—Luke; Didactic (teaching)—Romans; Poetic—Psalms; Epistle (letter)—2 Timothy; Proverbial—Proverbs

Look for the single meaning of the passage.

Always try to understand what the author had in mind when you interpret a portion of the Bible. Don't twist verses to support a meaning that is not clearly taught. Unless the author of a particular book indicates that there is another meaning to what he says, let the passage speak for itself.

### APPLICATION discover how it works

The first step in application is to find out what the Word of God says on any particular subject through accurate observation and correct interpretation of the text. Once you understand what the Word of God teaches, you are then obligated before God to accept that truth and to live by it.

Scripture will always teach what is right, show us where we are wrong, how to correct, and train us in right living; so that we are complete, fully equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Find others in your area who are studying God's Word inductively. Call 800.763.8280 or email info@precept.org

### **Inductive Study Basic Symbol Key**



Put a **blue** triangle around the **who** of the text. Who is writing the letter? Who is reading the letter? Who is being talked about in the letter?



Put a **red** rectangle around **key words** and **key phrases**. These can be anything you think is very important to the passage or anything the Lord leads you to box in. Look for repeated words, lists, or contrasts and comparisons (for example, light and dark).



Identify **major themes** that you see in the passage and write them in **green** directly next to the line or sentence where the theme appears or is repeated. Margin space next to the text has already been provided in this booklet. The themes are main ideas, teachings, or subjects of the passage.

#### **GETTING STARTED**

Before your first meeting, read through the entire book at least twice. The first time, don't mark anything. Just read to get a full understanding of the context. The second time, using the key above, mark the text. Don't worry about "getting it right." Different people will see different things at different times.

We've removed verse numbering from the text and are using line numbers instead to serve as guides to specific passages. Each week we will discuss a few lines in depth. When we reach the end of our allotted time, we will stop and pick up with the next few lines at the next meeting.

Some passages we will move through quickly. Some passages we may even spend two or more sessions going over. The goal is to engage prayerfully, deeply, and thoughtfully with scripture in an organized and structured manner.

You will be able to apply the inductive Bible study method to every book in the Bible on your own or in other groups in the future.

Each week we will look at what the text tells us to do, say, think, and believe so we will know how to apply what we are discovering to our Christian walk.

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God,
- 2 to the saints who are at Ephesus, and the faithful in
- 3 Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our
- 4 Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 6 who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the
- 7 heavenly places in Christ, even as he chose us in him
- 8 before the foundation of the world, that we would be
- 9 holy and without defect before him in love, having
- 10 predestined us for adoption as children through Jesus
- 11 Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his
- 12 desire, to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which
- 13 he freely gave us favor in the Beloved, in whom we have
- 14 our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our
- 15 trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which
- 16 he made to abound toward us in all wisdom and
- 17 prudence, making known to us the mystery of his will,
- according to his good pleasure which he purposed in him
- 19 to an administration of the fullness of the times, to sum
- 20 up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the
- 21 things on the earth, in him. We were also assigned an
- things on the earth, in thin. We were also assigned at
- 22 inheritance in him, having been foreordained according
- 23 to the purpose of him who does all things after the
- counsel of his will, to the end that we should be to the praise of his glory, we who had before hoped in Christ.
- 26 In him you also, having heard the word of the truth, the
- 27 Good News of your salvation—in whom, having also
- 28 believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,
- 29 who is a pledge of our inheritance, to the redemption of
- 30 God's own possession, to the praise of his glory.
- 31 For this cause I also, having heard of the faith in the
- 32 Lord Jesus which is among you, and the love which you
- 33 have toward all the saints, don't cease to give thanks for
- 34 you, making mention of you in my prayers, that the God
- of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to
- 36 you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge
- 37 of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that
- 38 you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what
- 39 are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the
- 40 saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power
- 41 toward us who believe, according to that working of the
- 42 strength of his might which he worked in Christ, when
- 43 he raised him from the dead and made him to sit at his
- 44 right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule,
- 45 authority, power, dominion, and every name that is
- 46 named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to
- 47 come. He put all things in subjection under his feet, and

48 gave him to be head over all things for the assembly,49 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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You were made alive when you were dead in transgressions and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We also all once lived among them in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus; for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.

Therefore remember that once you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "uncircumcision" by that which is called "circumcision" (in the flesh, made by hands), that you were at that time separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off are made near in the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who made both one, and broke down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in his flesh the hostility, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man of the two, making peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, having killed the hostility through it. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and to those who were near. For through him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.

96 For this cause I, Paul, am the prisoner of Christ Jesus on 97 behalf of you Gentiles, if it is so that you have heard of 98 the administration of that grace of God which was given 99 me toward you, how that by revelation the mystery was 100 made known to me, as I wrote before in few words, by 101 when you read, you can perceive my which, 102 understanding in the mystery of Christ, which in other 103 generations was not made known to the children of 104 men, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles 105 and prophets in the Spirit, that the Gentiles are fellow 106 heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow 107 partakers of his promise in Christ Jesus through the 108 Good News, of which I was made a servant according to 109 the gift of that grace of God which was given me according to the working of his power. To me, the very 110 111 least of all saints, was this grace given, to preach to the 112 Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make 113 all men see what is the administration of the mystery 114 which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things through Jesus Christ, to the intent that now 115 116 through the assembly the manifold wisdom of God might 117 be made known to the principalities and the powers in 118 the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose 119 which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him 120 we have boldness and access in confidence through our 121 faith in him. Therefore I ask that you may not lose heart 122 at my troubles for you, which are your glory.

123 For this cause, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord 124 Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he would grant you, according to 125 the riches of his glory, that you may be strengthened 126 127 with power through his Spirit in the inner person, that 128 Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, to the end 129 that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be 130 strengthened to comprehend with all the saints what is 131 the width and length and height and depth, and to know 132 Christ's love which surpasses knowledge, that you may

be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to him be the glory in the assembly and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

139 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk 140 worthily of the calling with which you were called, with 141 all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with 142 one another in love, being eager to keep the unity of the 143 Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one

- 144 Spirit, even as you also were called in one hope of your
- 145 calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and
- 146 Father of all, who is over all and through all, and in us
- all. But to each one of us, the grace was given according
- 148 to the measure of the gift of Christ. Therefore he says,
- 149 "When he ascended on high,
- 150 he led captivity captive,
- and gave gifts to people."Psalm 68:18
- Now this, "He ascended", what is it but that he also first
- 153 descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who
- 154 descended is the one who also ascended far above all
- the heavens, that he might fill all things.
- 156 He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and
- 157 some, evangelists; and some, shepherds and teachers;
- 158 for the perfecting of the saints, to the work of serving,
- 159 to the building up of the body of Christ, until we all
- 160 attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of
- 161 the Son of God, to a full grown man, to the measure of
- the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we may no
- 163 longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried
- 164 about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of
- men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error; but speaking
- 166 truth in love, we may grow up in all things into him who
- 167 is the head, Christ, from whom all the body, being fitted
- 168 and knit together through that which every joint
- 169 supplies, according to the working in measure of each
- 170 individual part, makes the body increase to the building
- 171 up of itself in love.
- 172 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you no
- 173 longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles also walk, in the
- 174 futility of their mind, being darkened in their
- 175 understanding, alienated from the life of God because of
- the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening
- 177 of their hearts. They, having become callous, gave
- 178 themselves up to lust, to work all uncleanness with
- 179 greediness. But you didn't learn Christ that way, if
- 180 indeed you heard him, and were taught in him, even as
- 181 truth is in Jesus: that you put away, as concerning your
- 182 former way of life, the old man that grows corrupt after
- the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit
- 184 of your mind, and put on the new man, who in the
- 185 likeness of God has been created in righteousness and
- 186 holiness of truth.
- 187 Therefore putting away falsehood, speak truth each one
- 188 with his neighbor. For we are members of one another.
- "Be angry, and don't sin." Psalm 4:4 Don't let the sun go

- 190 down on your wrath, and don't give place to the devil.
- 191 Let him who stole steal no more; but rather let him
- 192 labor, producing with his hands something that is good,
- 193 that he may have something to give to him who has
- 194 need. Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth,
- 195 but only what is good for building others up as the need
- may be, that it may give grace to those who hear. Don't
- 197 grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed
- 198 for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath,
- anger, outcry, and slander be put away from you, with
- 200 all malice. And be kind to one another, tender hearted,
- 201 forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave
- 202 you.
- 203 Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children. Walk
- in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave himself up
- 205 for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-
- smelling fragrance.
- 207 But sexual immorality, and all uncleanness or
- 208 covetousness, let it not even be mentioned among you,
- as becomes saints; nor filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor
- 210 jesting, which are not appropriate, but rather giving of
- 211 thanks.
- 212 Know this for sure, that no sexually immoral person, nor
- 213 unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater,
- 214 has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God.
- Let no one deceive you with empty words. For because
- of these things, the wrath of God comes on the children
- of disobedience. Therefore don't be partakers with them.
- 218 For you were once darkness, but are now light in the
- 219 Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit
- 220 is in all goodness and righteousness and truth, proving
- 221 what is well pleasing to the Lord. Have no fellowship
- 222 with the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather even
- 223 reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of the
- things which are done by them in secret. But all things,
- 225 when they are reproved, are revealed by the light, for
- 226 everything that reveals is light. Therefore he says,
- 227 "Awake, you who sleep, and arise from the dead, and
- 228 Christ will shine on you."
- 229 Therefore watch carefully how you walk, not as unwise,
- 230 but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are
- evil. Therefore don't be foolish, but understand what the
- 232 will of the Lord is. Don't be drunken with wine, in which
- 233 is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to
- 234 one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs;
- 235 singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
- 236 giving thanks always concerning all things in the name

- 237 of our Lord Jesus Christ, to God, even the Father;
- 238 subjecting yourselves to one another in the fear of
- 239 Christ.
- Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 240
- 241 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is
- 242 the head of the assembly, being himself the savior of
- 243 the body. But as the assembly is subject to Christ, so let
- 244 the wives also be to their own husbands in everything.
- 245 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the
- 246 assembly, and gave himself up for it; that he might
- 247 sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water
- with the word, that he might present the assembly to 248
- 249 himself gloriously, not having spot or wrinkle or any
- 250 such thing; but that it should be holy and without
- 251 defect. Even so husbands also ought to love their own
- 252 wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife
- 253 loves himself. For no man ever hated his own flesh; but
- 254 nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord also does
- the assembly; because we are members of his body, of 255
- his flesh and bones. "For this cause a man will leave his 256
- 257 father and mother, and will be joined to his wife. Then
- 258 the two will become one flesh."Genesis 2:24 This
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- mystery is great, but I speak concerning Christ and of 260 the assembly. Nevertheless each of you must also love
- 261 his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see that
- 262 she respects her husband.
- 263 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- 264 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first
- 265 commandment with a promise: "that it may be well with
- you, and you may live long on the earth." 266
- 267 You fathers, don't provoke your children to wrath, but
- 268 nurture them in the discipline and instruction of the
- 269 Lord.
- 270 Servants, be obedient to those who according to the
- 271 flesh are your masters, with fear and trembling, in
- 272 singleness of your heart, as to Christ, not in the way of
- 273 service only when eyes are on you, as men pleasers, but
- 274 as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the
- 275 heart, with good will doing service as to the Lord, and
- 276 not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one
- 277 does, he will receive the same good again from the Lord,
- whether he is bound or free. 278
- 279 You masters, do the same things to them, and give up
- 280 threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master
- 281 and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with
- 282 him.

283 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his 284 might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be 285 able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our 286 wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the 287 principalities, against the powers, against the world's 288 rulers of the darkness of this age, and against the 289 spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 290 Therefore put on the whole armor of God, that you may 291 be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, 292 to stand. Stand therefore, having the utility belt of truth 293 buckled around your waist, and having put on the 294 breastplate of righteousness, and having fitted your feet 295 with the preparation of the Good News of peace, above 296 all, taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be 297 able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. And 298 take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, 299 which is the word of God; with all prayer and requests, 300 praying at all times in the Spirit, and being watchful to 301 this end in all perseverance and requests for all the 302 saints: on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me 303 in opening my mouth, to make known with boldness the 304 mystery of the Good News, for which I am an 305 ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I 306 ought to speak.

- 307 But that you also may know my affairs, how I am doing, 308 Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the 309 Lord, will make known to you all things. I have sent him 310 to you for this very purpose, that you may know our
- 311 state and that he may comfort your hearts.
- 312 Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God
- 313 the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all
- 314 those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible
- 315 love. Amen.

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### **Meditation or Scripture Memory**

This page is reserved for you to write down a key scripture from the book that expresses the essence oneness. This is for you to do on your own at any time during our study.	O
First, define oneness in a biblical sense. Provide a key verse.:	
How does the book express oneness/unity through love. Provide a key verse.:	
How does the book express oneness/unity in truth. Provide a key verse.:	
How does the book express oneness/unity by faith. Provide a key verse.:	
How does the book express oneness/unity with forgiveness. Provide a key verse.:	
How does the book express oneness/unity for community. Provide a key verse.:	