



Purley Baptist Church

Discipleship Guide 27th September 2020 **The Community of the Kingdom of Heaven: Expectations**

Ephesians 3, 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

This Week's BIG IDEA: As the Church lives together in community and interacts as God's family, how do we as Christians react when things don't go smoothly? How do we cope with the inevitable disappointment when God's vision for the Church meets the reality of what imperfect people that make up that church are really like? As Christians we are secure in being unified in God's family no matter the problems or strife that might exist between us. God provides his strength and resources to make this seemingly impossible vision for the church possible.

CONNECT IN:

Icebreaker question: What does your name mean? Why were you named that?

CONNECT UP: Fix your eyes on God and give him an opportunity to speak to you through his Word

Starter... What did you expect church to be like, at any point in your life, that is different to your understanding and experience now?

Read the passage

- 1) (v6) (v10, 11) According to these verses what is God's vision for the church?
- 2) From the passage in 1 Corinthians 1, read v 11-13 What is the reality we are often confronted with in church?
- 3) In moments of disagreement or disillusionment how might the truth of (v15) help us to honour each other correctly and help us past disagreements
- 4) (v20) When we weigh up God's plan and hope for the church, do you think it is reasonable considering the failures in people? How does v20 affect your thoughts on that question?
- 5) What is the response of the mature Christian to inevitable disappointments in church leaders, institutions, and other Christians? What is Paul's response in in verses 14-21?
- 6) Do you have a clear hope and vision of God's purpose for the church that weathers the disappointments that might come your way?

Heartbeat

This week, in your personal quiet times, in the recalibrate prayer booklet try doing 'Jesus at the Centre of it all' exercise.