



## Section 1: Called to Loving Community

### Main Idea

God calls us to be a loving community that reflects Christ's sacrificial love, practicing humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness in our relationships with one another.

Ephesians 4:1-3, John 13:34-35

### Discussion Questions

1. The sermon emphasizes that God's commands are not just rules to follow, but pathways to shaping our lives. How has obeying God's command to love changed you internally, not just in your outward actions?
2. Pastor Jon mentions several practical ways to show love in community (hosting meals, praying for others, giving encouragement). Which of these resonates with you most, and what's one specific way you can put it into practice this week?
3. Reflect on a time when you experienced "hesed" love (steadfast, loyal, merciful love) from someone in your community. How did it impact you, and how might you extend that kind of love to others?
4. Reflect on Kris Austin's testimony shared in the sermon. How has being part of a loving community impacted your own faith journey? In what ways can you contribute to creating that kind of supportive environment for others?

## Section 2: Called to Maturing Community

### Main Idea

We are called to a community that not only gathers socially but also purposefully grows together, becoming more like Christ in our character and influencing others through our lived example.

Ephesians 4:11-16

### Discussion Questions

1. The sermon emphasizes that we influence others by how we live our lives, even without formal lessons. Can you think of someone who has positively influenced your spiritual growth simply by their example? What specific qualities did you observe in them?
2. Pastor Jon asks, "What would happen if we lived in a way that encouraged others to live up to their identity in Christ?" How might our small group practically encourage each other to embrace our identity in Christ?
3. Looking at the list of "Marks of a maturing believer" from the sermon, which area do you feel you've grown in recently? Which area would you like to focus on developing next, and how can the group support you in that growth?

### Marks of a maturing believer:

- Growing in love and unity alongside other believers
- Deepening in understanding of the Word and increasing time in prayer
- Cultivating a heart to serve others and a heart of hospitality and generosity
- Engaging in discipleship (Community Groups, Personal Spiritual Disciplines). Looking to learn and develop your spiritual gifts
- Demonstrating forgiveness and reconciliation – not holding onto offense
- Able to hold deep, long lasting relationships
- Able to celebrate the growth in others