

# Gamma 11

## Study 11

Ephesians 4:1-10

### Section A (Exegetical Questions)

- 1. Why does Paul urge them to live lives worthy of the gospel as a prisoner of the Lord and not an apostle as he does elsewhere?**
- 2. What does Paul mean by ...” maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” Why is maintenance is important. How can this be achieved ?**
- 3. Does everyone have a gift and how did it come about that we actually received the gifts?**
- 4. What are the hosts of captives that Jesus leads in his victory?**
- 5. What is the difference between a gift and an office?**

### Section B

#### Reflection Questions

- 1. Have you experienced not getting along with others in the church ? Can you suggest ways in which (now looking back in retrospect) you could have better handled the situation given the qualities Paul outlined in the passage?**
- 2. What is humility? How do we learn to practice this in our own family? What about our church. What are the impediments to humility that you each individually struggle with?**
- 3. How can exercising your gift potentially cause differences and discord within the church? How can we exercise our gifts in a manner that will maintain unity preserve diversity and glorify God?**

4. Paul wrote Ephesians 4:1 “ **I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called”** , Why did he write therefore? How does this answer the question of why should we should sacrifice our pride and seek to reconcile with the ones whom you disagree or have a grudge against in church? What are the concrete steps you could resolve today to move towards this direction in your life. Discuss it with your group and how can we help each other?

## **Section C**

### **Case history**

**Gladys Ho was active in church serving in the kitchen ministry where she was administrating the culinary activities. The team would regularly cook up a nice meal for new comers welcome dinner or other evangelistic events. Tessa Lai is a rather vocal person in church and has a rather disruptive habit of passing comments on the quality of the food at these events which has caused more than the occasional complaints from the women doing the cooking to Gladys. This was done using the whatsapp chat group. Notwithstanding, the problems this has caused, it is also true that the quality of food has recently deteriorated and the ladies doing the ministry have been discouraged and hence put in less effort. Hence a vicious cycle of disparaging comments causing discouragement which then causes poor food which then fuels further complaints which now become legitimate.**

1. **What steps can Gladys take to address the situation in a manner that will preserve the unity of the body? How should she do this?**
2. **Tessa Lai got very upset when the issue was brought up to her and has not attended church for more than a month. Should any action be taken in the light of the passage we have just read?**
3. **Is this a common kind of problem in churches? Why is it so and how can we be better prepared to deal with such problems of prevent them from occurring?**