

Series: Partners in the Journey
Message: Called by Christ to *Share Life*
Text: Ephesians 1:15-23 (AM 1/17/10)

In the first chapter of Ephesians, Paul moves from a *soaring* description of our *triumph* in Christ to a *stunning* portrait of our *treasure* in the Body of Christ. We know that believers *comprise* the Bride of Christ. But what gives *structure, character and purpose* to the local assembly? The church is not *names on a roll or members* in a pew. The Body takes shape when Christians are *connected in small groups*. Those small groups, whether Sunday school classes or ministry teams, then become the *hands, feet, eyes, ears and voice* of Jesus in the community. What are the components Paul outlines in Ephesians?

- I. **Sharing Life establishes Structure in the Body (22-23)**
Through Small Groups - People find their place

- II. **Sharing Life enables Support for the Brethren (15)**
Through Small Groups - Relationships become real

- III. **Sharing Life ensures Supplication Believing (16)**
Through Small Groups – Prayer becomes a priority

- IV. **Sharing Life encourages Study of the Bible (17-18)**
Through Small Groups – Truth is able to transform

- V. **Sharing Life empowers the Saints with Boldness (19)**
Through Small Groups – Members are on mission

- VI. **Sharing Life edifies the Savior across Boundaries (20-21)**
Through Small Groups – Christ is crowned!

Application to life: Are you *plugged into* a Small Group and Ministry Team? It's there we find *purpose* for life and the Body accomplishes its *mission* in the world. Those that are *Loving God* will naturally long to *Share Life* with other believers. There is a class and team waiting on you.

*“I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the
saints.”
Ephesians 1:15*