**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**October 13th 2019. Winner**

**Discussion notes: Winning Ways. Ephesians 4:7-16**

After our series ‘Loser’ we are embarking on a month of vision where we want to reinforce some of our key values about living the Christian life well, running the race to win. In the paradox and tension of following Jesus we are both losers and winners as (our September series emphasised). Just as Jesus won a victory by being crucified, there is a victory for us to win!

A central value for Woodlands Church is that we are all ‘ministers’, we all ‘get to play’. We believe that the Christian life is a ‘naturally supernatural’ lifestyle in which we get to see God using us for more of His Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. Ephesians 4 is a key passage in helping us understand the inclusion of everyone in ministry.

1. How many times is ‘each one’ mentioned in this passage? Compare this to other language about the Holy Spirit and gifts (e.g. Acts 2:17, Romans 12:3, 1 Corinthians 12:7, 1 Corinthians 14:26). What does this tell us about who gets to participate in Christian ministry?
2. What is the basis for Christian ministry then? Character, competence or something else?
3. What is the main role of those particular people, described as ‘gifts of Christ’ (or five fold ministers) in v 11?
4. How equipped do you feel to be a ‘minister’? Do you have a sense of the kind of ministry you might be called to? Who do you think has a role in equipping you?
5. What is the difference between using our natural gifts in ministry and living a supernatural lifestyle? The passages in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 may help you to explore this subject.
6. How does the power of the spirit transform ‘losers’ like the disciples in John 20 v 19, to winners (Acts 3:6)

I believe God wants us to know who we are ‘in Christ’ and carry around at all times that sense of identity as ministers, a resource from God wherever we are. What would it take for that to become true in your life? How can small group be a centre for everyone to be a minister?