**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**January 21st 2018. UP IN OUT**

**Discussion notes: In. Ephesians 2:11-4:16**

Ephesians is a book for and about the Church and in it Paul encourages believers, because of the richness of their inheritance in Christ to have rich relationships with one another. The ‘Up’ strengthens the ‘In’. The Church is not always regarded as essential by contemporary Christians, particular in the ‘individualistic’ culture of the western world. Yet commitment to the Church is intrinsic to commitment to Christ by the nature of His own commitment to the Church. And the nature of the In element of Church is about the expression and practice of distinct community.

1. What are some of the dynamics of Church mentioned by Paul in these verses?
2. How important is the demonstrable unity and love of the Church made up of Jews and Gentiles in God’s plan for the world?
3. What do you understand the ‘body of Christ’ to signify? (4:16).
4. What is vital about the ‘In’ relationship of Church?
5. What are the dangers if the ‘in’ is not balanced by ‘up’ and ‘out’?
6. What would you say to someone who felt they could be a perfectly good Christian without being part of a local Church?

Small group and pastorate life is particularly where the ‘IN’ is worked out and celebrated? What part of your small group life is indispensable?