

Ephesians Handout

Week Sixteen

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...3:14 for this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

1-3:

4-6:

Ephesians 4

1 I am calling/entreating/encouraging you then, I—prisoner in (of) the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling to which you were called,

Truth then exhortation. Gal. 5:1, Rom. 6:11, Col. 3:1,
Why encourage rather than command?
Phil. 1:8

Why bring up the prisoner thing again?

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What is the “ask”?

Walk:

Walk worthy:

Of the calling to which you have been called:

What is true about our calling?

Who called us? Why does it matter?

The calling is in—

Why did God call you?

What is our calling? Eph. 1:18, 1 Cor. 1:2, 1 Pt. 5:10, 1 Thes. 4:7, Rom. 8:28, Heb. 3:1, 2 Tim. 1:8-9

Can we escape our calling, should we doubt it, will we fail? Rom. 11:29, 1 Thes. 5:23-24

Litmus test for life:

When you mess up and stumble:

The time frame of the calling:

The circumstances of the calling:

Ephesians and John 17 Jesus and Paul are looking for a people of _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____.

What do you think we are struggling most with in the Western church? Can you have one without the other?_

What is more difficult to address from the pulpit or in your small groups and why?

4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility (lowliness of mind) and gentleness, with patience (far feeling), bearing with one another in love, 3 being diligent/earnest to preserve/guard/protect the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Humility: tapeinophrosyne Ps. 51:17, Isa. 57:15, Micah 6:8 Lowliness of mind.
Isa. 6:1-

Gentleness:

What power? Eph. 1:19

What control? Eph. 3:16

Gal. 6:1, 1 Pt. 3:15-16

Mat. 11:29 How can Jesus say this!

Why do the meek inherit everything?

Basis:

Well:

Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret, and am at peace as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and above is trouble.

Patience: makrothymias. Long/far anger. Persistence with one's convictions especially when it is difficult, bearing up under provocation. 2 Cor. 6:4, Ex. 34:6, 1 Cor. 13:4

Basis: Eph. 2:3

Well: Eph. 3:16

Bearing with one another *in love*:

Mk. 9:17 Mk. 9:25

Basis & Well: Eph. 3:17

Being eager/diligent/making every effort (present participle imperative) to preserve the unity (oneness) of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We do not create unity we...

Unity is the miraculous outworking of God's work in Christ on the cross made real in us by the HS.

Basis: Eph. 2:15, 18

Well:

...still we are exhorted to zealously maintain unity.

Eagerly:

Guard:

Maintain:

What are the odds we get this right?

- Because

Gal. 5:22

-Because

2 Cor. 2:14, 1 Jn. 5:4, 2 Cor.2:14, 1 Pt. 2:9, Rev. 21:1-3

Discussion Questions

1. What was the last good example of humility or gentleness or patience or long-suffering you saw in “the church”?
2. Is there someone in your life who would be honest with you about which characteristic you need to work on? How receptive would you be to their answer?
3. With all humility and gentleness, consider this question. Are there some sins that should not be addressed directly from the pulpit for the sake of preserving unity?
4. One saying that came out of the bloody religious conflicts of the 1600’s is this:
In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity (grace).
I think this is brilliant, but just like Eph. 4, how does this not solve our problem in the church?
5. Even if we could all agree on the essentials and non-essentials, would that lead to peace among believers? Why or why not? What then must we do?! Where is the hope?