

Discovery Group - Ephesians

Worthy of the Calling

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Ephesians 4:1-16

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What is the role of leaders in the Church? What is the role of each member of the churches?
- In what way is fulfilling your role in the church an important part of God's plan for the whole world?
- What tends to prevent you from fulfilling your ministry? How can you overcome this? How can the church both help you *in* and benefit *from* this work?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read Ephesians 4:1 - 6:9

Worthy of the Calling

How will this new entity called the Church be the fullness of Jesus in the world?

As a prisoner of the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Paul urges the Ephesian church - and us - to live worthy of this incredible calling. In this section, the focus is on a swirl of related ideas: unity, maturity, ministry. Unity is a reality based on the work of Christ. There is in fact one body and one Spirit; one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God. The very formation of the Church was, and is, a supernatural work of unity, with Jesus making one new humanity. However, we also have a role. We, as the Church, are called to “keep the unity of the Spirit.” In fact, we are given the goal to attain “unity in the faith.” We also learn that unity is a feature of our maturity.

Maturity means to be strong. To be whole. Perfect. It is being all we are meant to be. For the Church, maturity means truly being ‘the fullness of Christ’ (or, in 4:13, the ‘whole measure of the fullness of Christ’). The first mark of such maturity is unity. Unity in the faith is a central pillar in how Christ is revealed to the world. The phrase ‘in the faith’ is significant. ‘The faith’ is the sum total of our belief system and life in Christ. Sometimes the same idea is conveyed with words like *doctrine* or *teaching* or *beliefs* or *deposit*. It includes what we believe about God and ourselves, and how we live that out. So unity in ‘the faith’ is not a superficial thing. In the words of Philippians, it is to “*stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel... being like-minded, having the same love, being one in Spirit and of one mind*” (Phil 1:27, 2:2). It is not simply a matter of finding the lowest common denominator between people, but truly coming into alignment together under the Word of God and the rule of Jesus.

So, in order to fulfill our purpose of revealing God to the world, we must reach a level of maturity that features a supernatural unity. No easy task. In order to accomplish this, God has given gifts - such as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. The work of these leaders is to equip the rest of the Church to fulfill the service - or ministry - that God has prepared for them. As each member comes to understand and fulfill their ministries, the whole church becomes mature; reaching unity and ultimately attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. We aim for this because that is our purpose as the Church - we must powerfully and truly reveal who Christ is to the world.