

A Life Worthy of Our Calling

Read: Ephesians 4:1-16

Main idea: Believers are called to live lives that reflect the truth of the gospel, striving for unity, Christ-likeness, excellence, impartiality, and relevance as part of the body of Christ.

Key Verses: "...walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (4:1-3 ESV)

Key Principles:

- Living a life worthy of our calling requires us to be humble and to view others through the lens of love with impartiality.
- Unity reflects the heart of God and demonstrates the power of the gospel to reconcile us in Christ.
- Maturity in Christ is the ultimate goal, reflected in our character and service.
- The church thrives when every believer pursues their calling with diligence and purpose.
- A life worthy of our calling begins with living in alignment with the truth of the gospel and sound biblical doctrine.
- The church remains relevant in a fallen world when each member contributes meaningfully to the mission of Christ.

Discussion:

1. What does it mean to live "in a manner worthy of the calling"? Why is it so easy to look down on others instead of loving with humility, gentleness and patience?
2. Paul calls us to be "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit." How can we work to build unity within our church and relationships? What are some things that serve to damage unity in the church?
3. How does spiritual maturity reflect Christ's character in your life? What steps can you take to grow in Christ-likeness?
4. Ephesians 4:12 highlights equipping believers for works of service. How do your gifts contribute to the church's mission? Why should we serve with excellence?
5. In what ways can we guard against being "tossed by waves" of cultural pressures or deceitfulness? How does truth shape our daily walk with Christ?
6. What does it look like for "every part" of the body to do its work? How can you apply this practically in your own role within the church?

Prayer:

- Focus on God helping us to live lives that are worthy of our calling.
- Pray:
 - That God would keep us grounded in His truth and anchored to His gospel.
 - That God would remind us of the need to serve Him with excellence in every area.
 - That God would keep us unified with Him and with His family.

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- I. Stay humble and love with impartiality. 1:1-2
- II. Stay together in the Spirit's unity. 1:3-6
- III. Stay focused on Christ's example. 1:7-10
- IV. Stay committed to a life of excellence. 1:11-13
- V. Stay anchored to God's truth. 1:14-15
- VI. Stay equipped and work with excellence. 1:16

NEXT WEEK:
Truth: Grounded in God's Word
2 Timothy 3:16-17