

Week 6, Ephesians: Chapter 4 (Vs 1-16)

V1 In one verse Paul _____ the goal of the Christian life. That goal is for every believer to walk in _____ with the holy, eternal position that they have been given.

That goal is for every believer to live up to the incredible call of God on their life... and that is that their life be a display of the wisdom, mercy, kindness and grace of God _____ to them at _____.

V2-3 Paul lists some _____ actions that indicate that someone is walking worthily of their calling. There are many, many actions that Paul could have used to _____ what it means to walk worthily of our heavenly calling...

And the ones that he chooses are not random, but in fact represent the _____ of what God considers the _____ of walking worthily.

Paul says that a life filled with humility, patience and a bearing with one another in love is the _____ example of walking worthily of our high calling.

Paul echoes these traits later in the chapter...

5:2 *Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us.*

Paul says that a life filled with love for others, and humbling being willing to _____ and _____ on their behalf is again the pinnacle of a life lived worthily.

V4-8 Paul says that one of the major ways that the body of Christ is helped in the process of walking more worthily are these “ _____ ” that he has _____.

What are these gifts?

They are positions and abilities that God has gifted certain people with in order to help _____ the flock of God.

V11-12 Paul says that God has given the church certain gifted people in order to help equip the believers and help them _____ in their walk. These people are to use their gifts to build of the body of Christ and equip them for life and ministry.

The believers are to take _____ of these people and to make themselves _____ to their gifting and equipping. Paul goes on further and explains the _____ or the end goal to which these gifted people are to strive towards.

V13 Paul lists three things that are the goal and aim of these gifted people. This is what they are to be equipping the church towards. These three things should be front and center for each believer.

1. Unity of the faith.

First we mean, a growing in the unity of the _____ of our faith.

That is; a growing in unity in our hope in the one God, one Lord, one Spirit, one salvation...

Second we mean, a growing in the unity of the _____ of our faith.

That is; a growing in unity with our brothers and sister in Christ. A growing in our ability to get along together.

2. Unity in the knowledge of the Son of God.

First we mean, that the church has a unified understanding of who the Son of God is.

A clear, _____ and united knowledge & faith in the truths & doctrines about Christ.

Second we mean, that the church has a unified goal in the _____ of the teaching about Christ and who he is and what he came to do and what he promises us etc.

3. Maturing into the fullness of the character of Christ.

First we mean, that the church has a unified goal that 'believers maturing into the character of Christ' is the _____ aim of the church as well as the _____ goal in the life of the believer. Second we mean, that the believers are _____ striving to grow in their submission to Christ...and that the leaders in these gifted positions are guiding and equipping people towards total _____ obedience to Christ.

It is here where we are reminded of our purpose as human beings...

We exist by God and for God. And our purpose is to **discover** our **unique role** in the **overarching plan** of God to **manifest his power, his wisdom, his love, his grace and his glory** to the world in this lifetime and the next. The way that we accurately display the wisdom, love, and grace of God is **by growing more and more into a mature likeness of Christ himself...** in how we think & act.

V14 Paul says that the more that we grow in the unity of the faith, in the knowledge of the son of God and the more we aspire to maturity in Christ... the more we will be able to withstand the onslaught of the world's _____. And the world's system, directed by Satan, is trying to _____ and attack us in ways to get us to doubt our faith and _____ in our knowledge of Christ.

V15-16 Paul says that how we counter this _____ is to lovingly speak the truth to each other in order to grow in our understanding of the truth about Christ and to grow in our _____ of the truth. Paul also says that as we grow more in our knowledge of Christ and our obedience to Christ, _____, the whole body, the _____, grows stronger and functions more and more the way that God desires it to.

SUMMARY

1. God's goal is for every believer to _____ a kind of life and make the kind of choices that are _____ with the holy, eternal position that they have been given.
2. Living a life filled with _____, patience and bearing with others in love may be the _____ examples of walking worthily.
3. God has _____ the church _____ people who should help believers in their desire to walk more worthily.
4. Believers must _____ themselves of these people which God has gifted the church with in order to _____ their growth.
5. These leaders are to _____ believers in the focus of their faith as well as their _____ within the family of God.
6. These leaders are to _____ believers into a unified _____ understanding of the Son of God.
7. These leaders are to _____ believers into an ever _____ maturation into the likeness of Christ.