

Ephesians 4:1-6

1 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

The Scripture starts with the word “therefore” which, once again, means that the information is based on information which has already been given. It is a continued explanation of the gospel and advice for Christian love and unity. You are blessed because you have received the gospel of salvation. You are saved by the grace of God. We are all in the family of God and united in one body. Sin separates us from God and love brings us back. We are Gentiles and we not only share the same body, we also share the same promise. The prayer is for the church to be strong in spirit grounded in love with Christ in our hearts.

Therefore you are to lead a worthy life that is worthy of the calling. The characteristics are humility, gentleness, patience, and love. These are the things to focus on while you are living out your life. Unity of the Spirit is emphasized by Christ Jesus, at the climax of his lessons in John 17. The bond of peace is a main point that is frequently emphasized. Whenever a church has conflict or arguments, both sides violate the Scripture. When they do, they violate the will of the Lord. People tend to forget that real conflict always goes against the will of God. There is one body and one Spirit. You were called to the one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. The Bible is very specific, there is only one way. We are to be one body of one faith.

The lesson is quite basic and simple. You, who are called by God need to live up to the calling. You received the blessing, love, and salvation. You are to conduct your life and relate to one another in a manner that preserves the love and unity. We are to live as one body and one Spirit. The purpose of the exhortations is not to tell you what to do but to motivate you to live up to your calling. Surrender human desires and wants for God’s love and mercy. The lesson is to lead a life worthy of the calling. The very essence of your life, your lifestyle, the essence of your being should be one of devotion. Your devotion is an enjoyable expression of thanks in response to what the Lord has done for you. This entails working with and co-operating with others. The calling is for all believers without regard for rank or ability. The focus on unity is necessary because there is one Lord, one body, one gospel, one spirit.

Devotional

Secret Place – July 25, 2024

Man writes about – gated community

Got to gate – guard – not let him in

Moved in that day – evening guard did not know him

Writes about = fear

Homeless – one night – what to do

Imagine that is you

At the gate of heaven
Expecting to get in
Every scriptural lesson - requires – reflection – self analysis
When it comes to salvation
Can't afford to get it wrong

Real World

Anger – by people – strangers
People that think they know you but don't
People that don't care to know you
Do not care enough – confirm their assumptions
Rather judge you today
Go to church on Sunday
And support each other's attitudes
We all know – there is much more going on in life
Than we can see with our own eyes
What goes on behind the scenes is a mystery
Anger = emotion that you own
It does not originate from outside stimulus
Not from what someone did to you
Not from what happened
Anger is the result – situation
You choose the response to the situation
If you choose anger – you are a person of anger
If you choose love – you are a person of love
Too many times we run into anger
Should be running into love
Instead of running out of love

Compassion

Hundreds of biblical references to compassion
Reveal = how important it is
More than kindness – sympathy
Includes suffering – your suffering becomes my suffering
Sincere compassion changes the way we live
We must learn to love others
Not according to what they say or do
But according to who you are
Look at the world through eyes of compassion
See = extend of human suffering
Extent of people – within Christian society
Do not help to relieve pain & suffering
Look at God' peace and mercy
And can't help but love Lord
When – love Lord – you respond to Lord
Through = love & compassion

Conclusion

Gospel – John – behind the scenes story
Man – blind – healed by Jesus
Faced anger – church – kicked out of temple
When Jesus heard what happened
He searched for him and found him
Reality = that is what he did for you and me
Searched for you and found you
Searched for me and found me
We owe it to him
Show the love of Christ at work within us