

Live a Life Worthy of Your Calling

Opener: What's something churches or Christians frequently disagree about?

Scripture: As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:1-6

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5-8

Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. . . . ²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. John 17:11, 20-23

Discussion Questions

1. Paul spent three chapters spelling out what God did for us. Now he refers to a “calling.” What is that calling? Who is called to do what? Ephesians 4:1
2. What does it mean to say that our walk should be “worthy” of our calling? What’s an example of when someone did something that was worthy of their calling? Eph. 4:1
3. How would you describe what it means to be humble, gentle, and patient? What do those attributes have to do with living a life that’s worthy of the calling we’ve received? Ephesians 4:2; Philippians 2:5-8
4. In verse 3, Paul tells us to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Why does he say to “keep” the unity rather than create it? Who created it? How can people who have different perspectives be unified? Ephesians 4:3; John 17:11, 20-23
5. Under what circumstances would unity be wrong? How can you tell when that is?
6. What does making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit have to do with our calling? What would you sacrifice to maintain unity? Ephesians 4:1-3; John 17:11, 20-23
7. What did Paul mean by saying that God is over all, through all, and in all? Does that statement support the belief that all religions worship the one true God? If not, how would you explain why it’s not true to those who believe it is? Ephesians 4:6

Wrap Up: Have you noticed that a hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? Pianos aren’t tuned to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So Christ followers, each one submitting to Jesus, are nearer to each other than they could possibly be if they became “unity” conscious and turned their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship. So we keep the unity of the Spirit when we keep our focus on Jesus and live life His way. Isn’t that Paul’s point? Adapted from *The Pursuit of God*, by A.W. Tozer.