

April 9, 2016

Ephesians 4:1-5

The book of Ephesians can be divided into two parts, chapters one through three – the cause – followed by chapters four through six – the calling. The first part details all of the things that God has done for us and creates the basis of the Christian cause. Starting in Ephesians four, Paul explains that because Christ demonstrated eternal love by dying for our sins, we have a calling to share God’s love. We do this by being humble, gentle and patient. We come from many different backgrounds and circumstances, but unity among believers is vital as we attempt to function together as one body. Paul explains that we must have humility and live in peace with others in order to live out God’s calling for our lives.

Questions

1. Christians in our culture can often become self-righteous and set themselves apart from the rest of the world in their minds. However, scripture is clear that all people (Christian or non-Christian) are sinful, and forgetting our sinful nature can make it even worse. If you could look at the American Christian culture from an outsiders perspective....what would your observations be?
2. Almost everyone can respond more effectively when they have a cause to believe in. How have you allowed Jesus’ sacrifice and love for you motivate your daily life?
3. As Matt mentioned in the teaching, Christians can be a very hypocritical group. We are sometimes guilty of using “God’s will” as an explanation for our own feelings or why we are taking certain actions. Do you find yourself doing this? How can you guard yourself from being hypocritical?
4. Matt asked us to pray for God to reveal if we are at battle with anyone and what our response should be to this war. Share these battles with your group. Be vulnerable and pray together that God will reveal how to respond and move forward in his love.