

Overview

Are there people in your life that you just cannot get along with? No matter how hard you try and no matter how much effort you put forth they still seem to irritate you. Becoming a Christian doesn't automatically eliminate this problem. With the body of Christ being made up of every tribe, tongue, and nation there are bound to be differences of opinion. I have yet to find any church where there is a drop box by the entry doors where people can place all their personal opinions and agendas and walk blissfully into the service in complete unity. In Ephesians 4:1-6 the Apostle Paul is dealing with the topic of Unity. He starts off by calling all believers to live a life worthy of their calling. In the following verses he explains how this is done. How does a believer live a life worthy of their calling? It would be the opposite of love for a father to expect his children to complete an impossible task without giving, equipping, resourcing, and teaching them to do it. For believers this is done through the Holy Spirit. When someone decides to become a follower of Christ they are baptized into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is by the power of the Spirit that all believers can live a life worthy of their calling. Throughout Scripture believers are called to be led and filled by the Spirit. There is one Spirit, one Lord, and one baptism. This unifying factor empowers everyone to be humble, gentle, patient, and bearing one another in love. It is when people are being led by the Spirit that differences of opinion do not escalate to points of contention. In Ephesians 4:3 the Apostle Paul tells all believers to "make every effort." God has given all Christians His Spirit, but He still expects all believers to make every effort to be led by the Spirit.

Bible Study: Ephesians 4:1-6

1. What steps can you take when you have a difference of opinion with a fellow believer? At what point does a difference of opinion become disunity in the Spirit?
2. What does it mean to live a life worthy of your calling? What does such a life look like? In what ways are you making every effort to live this type of life?
3. We live in a society that emphasizes strength and power. How is it possible to be humble, gentle, patient, and bearing with one another in such a self-centered, power driven society?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. Unity is not created by believers, but it is given by the Holy Spirit. Discuss as a group the idea of unity through the Spirit.
5. Seven times in Ephesians 4:1-6 Paul emphasizes the word "one." In what ways does having a singular focus on one Spirit, God, body, faith, and hope help create a unified body of believers?
6. In Ephesians 4:1. The word translated "live" can also be translated "walk." There are several passages telling Christians how they are to walk. Read over the following passages out of Ephesians:
4:1: "**walk** worthy of the calling with which you have been called"
4:17: "**walk** no longer as the Gentiles **walk**"
5:2: "**walk** in love"
5:8: "**walk** as children of light"
5:15: "Therefore be careful how you **walk**, not as unwise, but as wise"

After reading these passages how do you know if you are being led by the Spirit?

7. In what ways is living by the Spirit a greater motivator to live a life worthy of your calling rather than just following a set of rules?