

EPHESIANS

4:1-6

WALKIN' THE WALK OF JESUS

PART 2

Hey ... God didn't just plop us onto this planet so we could wander around for 80 years or so and then vanish into nothingness. No, rather as we saw in our previous study of **Ephesians 4:1-6**, God has bestowed upon every believer in Christ a special **calling** by which to live. Listen: That **calling** is to **live what Jesus wants you to be and do!** We also learned what this kind of Christ-directed living looks like. It is daily demonstrating Jesus' amazing qualities of **humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, love, unity** and **peace**. Hmm, that sounds easier said than done, because it is! That's why **Ephesians 4:4-6** seeks to motivate us with seven really big **reasons** to follow the Lord's **calling** on our lives, and then provides us with seven equally big **resources** to accomplish His **calling** throughout our lives. Truth be told, these reasons and resources are one in the same! They're designed to empower us to be **walkin' the walk of Jesus** so that our lives will honor God and enjoy life the way God created us to experience it. Let's dig in and see what *the reasons and resources of our calling* are all about.

REMEMBERING THE CALL

(v.1)

**** LIVE WHAT JESUS WANTS YOU TO BE & DO! ****

RECOGNIZING WHAT THE CALL LOOKS LIKE

(vv. 2-3)

HUMILITY GENTLENESS PATIENCE
FORBEARANCE LOVE UNITY PEACE

REASONS & RESOURCES FOR LIVING THE CALL

(vv. 4-6)

1. (v.4)

2. (v.4)

3. (v.4)

4. (v.5)

5. (v.5)

6. (v.5)

7. (v.6)

**** LIVE WHAT JESUS WANTS YOU TO BE & DO! ****

There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and be able to tell himself that his labor was good. I have learned that this kind of living is from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:24

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

Take no more than 5 minutes to quickly review the main points from Pastor John's message. As you discuss the questions, don't expect to answer all of them. Just discuss the ones your group would most like to explore together. *Remember, the goal of your small group is to grow together relationally, to **apply** God's Word to our daily living, and to pray for one another and our church.*

1. Briefly meditate on **Ephesians 4:1-6**, by assigning someone in your group to read the passage aloud, from two different translations such as the NASB & the NLT, while everyone else in the group listens attentively. Before you read, seek the Lord and have several in your group pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak directly to your hearts, just from the dual readings of God's Holy Word alone. Close your eyes and concentrate on listening as the Word is spoken. Did you hear the Lord speak to you? If so, what did He seem to be saying to you? It is possible He will reiterate a point from Sunday's message or show you something in the passage that Pastor John didn't mention. It is possible you won't hear Him saying anything, although it is more probable you will.

2. In **verses 4-6**, Paul gives us **7 Reasons & Resources** for successfully fulfilling our calling in life from God. Pastor John summarized God's calling upon our lives as ... **Live what Jesus wants you to be & do.** Put this statement into your own words. Why is it so important that every day we maintain an acute sense of awareness that we have this calling from God? Why do you think the very reasons for living out our calling are also the very resources we need to do it?

3. Of the **7 Reasons & Resources**, which one or two of them spoke most directly to you and your situation? What would happen if you got stronger in those areas? What steps of faith do you think God might be asking you to take in order to more fully pursue the calling? And by the way, how would you define what a step of faith is?

4. Toward the end of his message, Pastor John said that he thought it is probably *easier* to discern, in terms of your calling, what God wants you to **be**, and *harder* to discern what it is that God wants you to **do**. Would you agree with that assessment? Do you think that the "do" part of one's calling might change during the different chapters and seasons of one's life? Why is it important to realize that discovering the specifics of your calling is not designed to frustrate you, make you guilty, or cause you anxiety? Indeed, God wants us to approach this with joy and anticipation! How can you do that?