

TV Dinners 06: Community

Dr. Vince McFarland

Have you ever thought about why in our culture a bar is so attractive? You can buy alcohol at a store; or a grocery store. In many ways it is kind of like Starbucks or if you prefer, Java Haute. It isn't the coffee necessarily; it is the atmosphere. This is why the American sitcom **"Cheers" hits home with all of us. It is a "place that works" and has a contagious power to build community.**

Ephesians 4:1-16

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner 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 eager 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 that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?

10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

The Worthy Life comes from having integrity in our calling.

Worthy means; balanced or equivalent

Ancient teachers used the word “vocation” for “calling”. This is something a bit larger than “**your job.**” For us it might be “**your ministry**” or “**your personal mission**”. The key is; **in God’s MISSION.**

Calling- Jesus; “follow me” then I live my life to honor his invitation.

The Worthy Life:

- is **characterized** by humility, gentleness, patience and love
 - whatever the ministry you are in; it is characterized by these virtues
 - the task is not as important as the virtues!
 - “what you do” is not as important as “who you are.”
- is **marked** by: unity (community)
 - ONE: body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, God
- is **powered** by Grace (Charisma; Holy Spirit)
 - Giftedness through God working in us (not saving grace, but ministry grace)
- **grows** through spiritual leadership
 - apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastor/teachers
- **matures** through the whole body working in symmetry
 - Truth speaking in love empowers harmony in all our efforts

The Culture of a good bar:

- **Characteristics**
 - “You wanna go where everybody knows your name”
 - A place to share your troubles, be with friends and make connections
 - Never alone

- The fact is aloneness is a part of life and the church; but can't be forever; we need people!

Why Pop Culture Is Obsessed with 'Identity'", Alissa Wilkinson

"We see the church as a place of performance, instead of a place where we are developed into more fully authentic—that is, more Christlike—humans."

That is what we want at our MCC Campuses; people who are more Christlike.

Love God, Love all people, live for His coming, give for His glory