

Ephesians 4:1-13

Verse 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, (Ephesians 4:1 ESV)

The key words in this passage are "walk in a manner worthy".

The way we live determines the value we put on our salvation.

The first place he starts is in the church and how we are to treat each other in the church.

*"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
(John 13:35 ESV)*

Verse 3:

eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3 ESV)

When we value our salvation, we work for the unity of the church.

We do not produce unity. Paul says we maintain unity, we preserve it, unity is already there- it is produced by the Holy Spirit.

This word "bond" refers to a ligament or a tendon.

Our job is to maintain that unity and when we walk worthy of our salvation, we are all over preserving unity.

eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3 ESV)

Peace is proof that we are under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Paul will tell us three attitudes that you and I need to have to preserve unity in the church.

Verse 2:

*with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
(Ephesians 4:2 ESV)*

1st attitude is humility

2nd attitude is gentleness

3rd attitude is forbearance

This next section Paul tells us the essentials of the faith.

Verse 4:

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— (Ephesians 4:4 ESV)

1) One body

2) One spirit

*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,
(Ephesians 5:18 ESV)*

3) One hope

Verse 5:

one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (Ephesians 4:5 ESV)

4) One Lord

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 ESV)

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:8 ESV)

5) One faith

6) One baptism

Verse 6:

one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:6 ESV)

7) **One Father**

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15 ESV)

Verse 7:

*But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.
(Ephesians 4:7 ESV)*

"Grace" - **spiritual gifts**

"Measure" - **portioning something out**

Paul then tells us what it cost for our spiritual gifts.

Verse 8-10:

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? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)—(Ephesians 4:8-10 ESV)

It cost God everything **to give us our spiritual gifts.**

God gives us the power to use those gifts.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, (Ephesians 3:20 ESV)

No excuse **not to use our gifts.**

Verse 11:

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
(Ephesians 4:11 ESV)*

“The apostles”- a very special group

First he tells us of the obstetricians- they are the evangelists.

Pediatricians- pastors, teachers

Verse 12:

*to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,
(Ephesians 4:12 ESV)*

This is the key text for the church.

Pastors are the coaches

“Equip”- in the New Testament it refers to the Word of God.

Jesus Christ gave you your gifts to minister.

Verse 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, (Ephesians 4:13 ESV)

Paul tells us the goal of using our gifts is maturity.